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Daily Report

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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* Challenges Face SADCC in New Decade

90AF0075A Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese
1 Apr 90 pp 21-24

[Article by Felisberto Naife; first paragraph is TEMPO introduction]

[Text] Ten years after the founding of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), an organization made up of nine countries in the region, positive results can be noted regarding attainment of the objectives for which it was established in the midst of many obstacles which, for that matter, still exist. The start of the new decade makes it imperative to formalize the SADCC's existence as an integrated economic group and to adopt a new strategy giving priority to other sectors such as industry and trade. The organization will also be strengthened in the near future by the addition of a new member: Namibia.

On 1 April, the southern African region will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the SADCC. That acronym first appeared at a meeting held in the Tanzanian city of Arusha in July 1979 under the chairmanship of the late president of Botswana, Seretse Khama. The initiative came from the five front-line countries of the time—Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia—and the group was joined the following year by four more countries (Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe), bringing to nine the total number of countries currently constituting the SADCC. That number will soon be increased to 10 by the addition of independent Namibia.

The next step following the conference in Arusha was the holding of a summit meeting by the chiefs of state in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, on 1 April 1980. At that meeting, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe were formally admitted to the organization. Zimbabwe participated in the meeting 18 days before becoming independent.

At that time, the chiefs of state meeting in Lusaka issued a declaration entitled "Southern Africa: Toward Economic Liberation" in which they laid down four main objectives:

- To reduce economic dependence, particularly but not exclusively in relation to South Africa.
- To establish, consolidate, and adopt measures and mechanisms aimed at equitable regional integration.
- To mobilize funds for promoting the implementation of national and regional projects.
- To coordinate actions for obtaining and ensuring international support and cooperation in connection with plans adopted as part of the strategy for economic liberation.

Now that 10 years have passed, we are reaping the fruits of that regional undertaking, an example being the rehabilitation of the Beira Corridor.

Language barriers and differences in administrative traditions may hinder the exchange and circulation of information, but they are not an obstacle within the

organization. The SADCC has its headquarters in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, and its executive secretary is Simba Makoni.

The nine countries meet annually for a summit conference, and the organization periodically holds an international conference of donors for the purpose of raising funds and obtaining technical and material support. The donors have varied considerably, including Europe, North America, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations, and the EEC [European Economic Community]. In recent years, it is the Nordic countries that have been prominent in providing funds for several of the organization's projects.

Vital Area

During the first decade, transportation and communications occupied a priority position in the organization's plans, with responsibility for that sector going to Mozambique, the country that coordinates the Southern African Transportation and Communications Commission (SATCC). In the 10 years that the SADCC has existed, its member countries have not yet succeeded in eliminating their dependence on South Africa in that sector, although the countries in the hinterland have reduced their dependence significantly.

The countries export about 21 percent of their goods through South African ports. That is the same percentage as in 1981, and it demonstrates the region's continuing dependence on South Africa. Six of the SADCC's nine member countries are landlocked, and 45 percent of their total goods passes through South African ports.

The problem of dependence derives from the fact that most of the member countries share a common border with South Africa, a country that takes advantage of its technological, economic, and military potential to preserve its hegemony in the region. In addition, the critical economic, political, and military situation experienced by the countries in the region over the past two decades has caused their transportation networks to deteriorate owing to sabotage and inadequate maintenance of the infrastructure. Those factors have contributed to a decline in the amount of traffic passing through Mozambican, Tanzanian, and Angolan ports, with the result that those ports are not currently being used to their full capacity.

Of the five existing corridors—Maputo, Beira, Nacala, Dar es Salaam, and Lobito—only three (Beira, Maputo, and Dar es Salaam) are in operation. To mention just one favorable example, traffic through Mozambique's Beira Corridor has improved considerably, rising from 1.45 million metric tons in 1986 to 1.95 million metric tons in 1989. That is an increase of about 34 percent. Work is currently underway to rehabilitate the Nacala and Limpopo Corridors in Mozambique and the Benguela Railroad, which ends at the port of Lobito in

Angola. The Benguela Railroad is designed to carry goods to and from Zambia and Zaire, and it is the backbone of transportation for all of central Angola.

The nine countries also cooperate in the field of telecommunications (via satellite), and very recently, the SATCC approved eight projects that include modernization of the communications system in the region. This is of particular importance to Angola, a country that has no rehabilitation projects in the area of telecommunications.

Other Sectors

Although the SADCC's priority has been to rehabilitate and expand infrastructures, especially in the field of transportation, intraregional trade has also received special attention. Trade among the SADCC countries is still negligible, accounting for only five percent of total exports. The intention is to increase that to 12 percent by the year 2000.

There are reasons for this situation. The main reason for the low level of intraregional trade is the underdeveloped economies of the countries in the region, and this is closely linked to the economic structure they inherited from colonialism. Another obstacle of no less importance is the backward state of the transportation network linking most of the countries in the region, a situation referred to above. An important factor making the situation worse is the specter of war in Mozambique and Angola, two countries occupying strategic geographic locations as regards transportation, seeing that they are located on the coast.

The coastal countries could use ocean transportation to establish regular links among themselves, but they have not done so. The road system is quite poor and inadequate, since most of the capitals of the SADCC countries are linked by regular air service, but it obviously costs a great deal to transport most products by that means. In order to facilitate the development of trade, the transportation system must be improved. The SADCC countries still export mainly agricultural products, minerals, and raw materials, while importing fuels, consumer goods, and manufactured goods, their production of which is quite limited, in order to meet the needs of the regional market.

South Africa continues to be the main exporter to some countries in the region, namely Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Over 80 percent of their total imports come from South Africa, and the import firms in those countries have South African owners, placing the other countries at a disadvantage in relation to South Africa.

But despite all that, intraregional trade is growing. The essential point is that these countries are building an intraregional system of trade.

In the energy sector, all the countries—with the exception of Angola, which produces 22.5 million metric tons of petroleum per year—depend exclusively on imports

for their crude oil and petroleum products. Prospecting for hydrocarbons in the region is on the increase, however, specifically in Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

Petroleum consumption levels in the region are too low—on the order of four million metric tons per year—and this presents a difficulty as far as economic recovery is concerned. Imports of petroleum products result in a sizable expenditure of the sparse foreign exchange available to the organization's member states.

The SADCC region has huge reserves of coal, some of which is of good quality and could be used to meet a large portion of the fuel demand and also as a substitute for petroleum. Coal consumption currently totals about six million metric tons per year, the main consumers being Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and Swaziland. For its part, the transportation sector—the potential consumer of petroleum products—accounts for 55 percent of the total consumption in those countries, and it is also the sector that plays an important role in shipping petroleum, coal, and charcoal to consumers in other parts of the globe.

Industry is one sector that is now receiving special attention, the reason being that in general, industry in the SADCC's member countries is at a low level of development. Each country in the region has a completely different industrial structure, and so far it has not been possible to establish a strategy suited to realities and objectives. The coming decade will see the establishment of a new industrial strategy involving the start of big projects, something that should not come as a surprise, considering that it is a necessity.

The projects to be started will include an increase in the production of agricultural products, consumer goods, and raw materials needed to fuel the industrialization programs of the nine countries and must also be capable of stimulating trade. The agricultural sector is struggling with the need to make full use of the existing resources, fertile lands, and numerous rivers. It is true that that sector is also struggling with extended droughts and livestock diseases caused by the tse-tse fly.

Another area of cooperation among the SADCC countries is civil aviation, which has grown substantially during the first 10 years of the organization's existence despite continuing difficulties with the routes connecting member countries. The problem is that since commercial carriers are involved, priority obviously goes to the most profitable routes. At present, the member countries are not all linked together, since the airlines do not operate in all of them. The solution is to try to find a way to establish connections among the various airlines serving the region, although that will be a difficult task.

New Decade

As it enters its second decade, the SADCC is going to formalize its existence at a regular summit meeting to be held in August—possibly in Namibia—at which the

chiefs of state from the member countries are scheduled to sign a legal document giving the regional group formal existence. The organization's entrance into its second decade is also being viewed from the standpoint of development and new challenges such as a strategy for the development of industry and trade and the pursuit of a policy aimed at establishing a food reserve in the region as a means of coping with shortages.

That position is defended by the SADCC's executive secretary, Simba Makoni, who spoke to the media during his visit to Maputo at the end of February. On that occasion, he said that "our activities have given us more confidence in the effectiveness of regional cooperation. We have rehabilitated the transportation and communications systems, but the critical point continues to be the capacity of our economies."

Simba Makoni also drew attention to the fact that the need for intraregional industry and trade exists because, he said, the SADCC countries still depend on the outside world for the products and services necessary for the operating the railroads. That, he said, is a challenge "compelling us to see to it that our economies constitute an integrated model." Makoni emphasized: "We must move ahead with our eyes fixed on a single integrated regional economic entity."

The rapid political developments in our region are leading us to reflect on the future of the organization. An independent Namibia and a democratic South Africa can certainly add a new dynamic to the SADCC. Incidentally, the organization's executive secretary himself suggested the possibility that in the not too distant future, South Africa might join the SADCC, seeing that Namibia, which is now independent, is almost a member, the only remaining step being its formal admission.

Kenya

President Moi Speaks; Links Parties, Tribalism

EA1005224590 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili
0925 GMT 10 May 90

[Live relay of speech by President Daniel arap Moi from Kerugoya Town, Kirinyaga District; quotation marks denote passages in English]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy to be with you here in Kerugoya town. Let us all listen to each other. [passage omitted] How many of you believe in the one-party system? Raise your hands high, higher [ululation] let everyone know you are Kenya African National Union people. All right put your hands down. I now know that the people of Kirinyaga do not want other leaders, and my fellow-leaders have said they do not want another party.

I believe that your leaders are loyal to one man, but there are others still in the government and elsewhere who have one foot here and another foot there [applause] Those two-Rubia and Matiba—have been going around saying we should have (?ten) [words indistinct], three [word indistinct] to lead us where? If a true patriot had asked whether it would be appropriate for us to have two three parties [words indistinct], we would have known that these words were emanating from the mind of a patriot. But by going around to say we must have more than one party, are you a true African? Are you a patriot? Are you a black European?

I believe—and I want you all to hear this, the young and the old—that we have not reached the stage at which we could start thinking about having two or three parties, because we have experienced the shortcomings of such parties in the sixties. Many people were killed because we had many parties and, as you know, when matters come to opposition Africans do not take things easy, they cannot understand. Fighting each other. That is what Africans are. We saw hell. Why? Because tribalism is still deeply-rooted. These children are free from such evils. It is the old who strongly. [sentence as heard] Nor are university students affected by tribalism. "Therefore, if you start another party, or even start another—what will guide that party will be tribalism—not public opinion, but tribalism, so," so it is appropriate for us to go on as we are until we have "a cohesive society which is united on the basis of principles rather than tribalism."

But now it appears that people are moving towards division because of this issue, "so" Rubiz, Matiba, and the church, what they are thinking of is tribal [word indistinct].

I have tried very hard. People do not take other people's ideas into consideration, particularly the Kikuyus. I have tried to defend them for years for the sake of the (?younger) generation, but just as much as we try to promote understanding, they oppose it. We know. I want

the people of Kenya to understand that I am not a tribalist. These children are my children, and I am Kenyan citizen.

But those who are dividing the people—what are they after? Chaos, such as the one in Ethiopia where about 12 tribes are "retreating" towards their areas. How is Uganda? How is Sudan? Everywhere. Somalia has 102 clans, each wielding its own guns to defend itself. "You think such things cannot happen in Kenya if things slip away?" [words indistinct] "Kenya will never be the same again. It will never be the same again," and I tell you knowing that when people shout about democracy they are sharpening a knife for such things, and in the final analysis what will come is problems. Let us therefore persevere with what we have been doing for these children who form 65 percent of the population. Let us therefore guard against such evils.

Churches should avoid politics [applause] because they do not know what the politicians want. These same groups introduce politics into the church. Now they are introducing thuggery. Even murders figure in their plans for the future. Others have said: Start parties in Scandinavia, then import them into Kenya when they are ready. They also planned [words indistinct] and to enter Kenya through Uganda to kill Kenyan officials and churchmen so as to make it look as if the government was involved in the killings. Have you ever heard such things?

These are the same people who sparked off the propaganda after the honorable Ouko died. Propaganda is coming from the same group, saying that the government was involved in the murder. Can my government be involved in such a [word indistinct]—"never." [applause] They also say they will cooperate with the CCK [Christian Council of Kenya] to exploit that part of the constitution which guarantees freedom of assembly or association. Then, if the government arrests them and takes them to court, they will bribe the judge with a lot of money to acquit them, so that he will be sacked and lose his benefits. Do such people want peace in this country? I say "I am a very tolerant person. My tolerance, possibly, has made these people to think that I am weak. No government worth its salt can undermine preservation of security of the people governed. It cannot happen". These people—"I will have to swing into action now" [applause]. They rely on human rights. We shall have no mercy. During Kenyatta's era, could they have jumped up like that? [crowd shouts: "No, no."] [passage omitted]

The CPK [Church of the Province of Kenya] is doing a great disservice to its followers. They always preach about corruption. The government has the machinery to deal with corrupt officials. [passage omitted]

"We have no problems with embassies. I would like to stress on this matter. Ambassadors, high commissioners, and their officers accredited to Kenya—you are free to travel to any part of the Republic. They are free to travel

to any part of the republic. We have all the laws, our own laws. If anybody breaks the law, whether he is an ambassador or high commissioner, he will be dealt with in the normal way. We want them to feel free. You know we are (?object). [passage omitted]

Somalia

Council of Ministers Approves Constitution Plan

EA1105131390 Mogadishu Domestic Service
in Somali 1700 GMT 10 May 90

[Text] The SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] Council of Ministers, in its fifth session, today unanimously approved the project for changing the constitution of the nation, discussions about which have been going on between 3 and 10 May. The approval came after deep analysis and more than 20 hours of debate by members of the Council of Ministers and after clarifications made by the technical committee which prepared this project.

The council analyzed and examined the articles which were changed, others which were amended, and other new ones. It also reviewed all the other articles of the constitution. The session of the Council of Ministers chaired by Comrade Mohamed Ali Samantuar, the SDR Prime minister, held five meetings on the project of changing the constitution. The debates were frank and democratic. All ministers took part in them.

Comrade Mohamed Ali Samantuar, the prime minister, speaking at the end of the meeting, said that this constitution was the product of 30 years experience and expertise gained from the two systems experienced by the country in 30 independent years.

Comrade Samantuar said that this constitution stressed the unity and aspirations of the Somali people and the common political system of the world today which is democracy. He said for this reason it was necessary that the Somali nation should be placed first.

The prime minister also said that after the project of the constitution had passed through the Council of Ministers and the People's Assembly, it would be necessary for the people to vote on it.

Comrade Samantuar clarified that before the constitution was passed to the people for approval, it would be necessary to ensure the security and stability of the country. He said this is because it would not be possible for the people to vote while any one region or district of the country is unstable and insecure.

We hope that the people outside the country who call themselves the opposition will understand the changes and democratic steps in process in the country which allow for many parties to start up and vie democratically for the administration of the country, something which can be gained by the confidence of the people and not by fighting, not by the barrel of the gun, the prime minister, comrade Mohamed Ali Muhamed Ali Samatur, said.

He thanked the technical committee, which prepared the project for changing the constitution of the nation, and the members of the Central Committee for the frank, democratic, and equal manner in which they had debated and contributed their ideas on the articles of the constitution before the Council of Ministers.

As reported by the journalists present at the scene [words indistinct]. They also said that the Council of Ministers, which ended its meeting this afternoon at 1500, will meet again in the coming weeks to debate the law guiding the political parties which will be established in the country.

Tanzania

University Closed; Result of 'Unusual Situation'

EA1405152890 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service
in Swahili 0330 GMT 13 May 90

[From the "Current Affairs" program]

[Excerpt] The key front page report today in all the newspapers is about the closure of the section of Dar es Salaam University located on the hill. The medical faculty remains open. The government closed Dar es Salaam University as of yesterday due to the unusual situation there, a statement from the Ministry of Education said yesterday. The statement, signed by the Ministry of Education's principal secretary, Comrade Wilfred Mwabulambo, stated that following the decision reached by the session of the university council's executive committee, which was held the day before yesterday, the government agreed to the recommendation to close the university immediately.

The measure was provoked by the unusual situation, which has continued to deteriorate day after day at the university, since 7 May 1990. The statement did not say why the situation had been unusual since 7 May. However, on that day the chancellor of Dar es Salaam University, President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, spoke with the university's management and the leaders of the Revolutionary Party at the university. He deplored the students' decision to boycott classes early last month, and their rejection of his request that they return to classes at once. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Fails To Confirm ANC Group's Meeting*MB1605231090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2135 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Pretoria May 16 SAPA—A working group of the government and the ANC [African National Congress] was due to have had its first meeting in Pretoria on Wednesday to make recommendations for the granting of immunity for political offences and advise on the release of political prisoners.

Both sides have been working separately on legal formulae to be worked out before a May 21 deadline for security prisoners.

The establishment of the group was announced at the beginning of May following the talks between the government and the ANC at Groote Schuur.

It could not be immediately confirmed whether the working group, in fact, met on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Department of Constitution Development and Planning was only able to say a working group had been established as envisaged during the Groote Schuur agreement.

The minutes of the Groote Schuur meeting stated the proceedings of the group would be confidential.

"It follows therefore that there will be no press statements emanating from the working group or about its activities," the spokesman said without any elaboration.

French Minister: De Klerk's Decisions 'Courageous'*MB1705072290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0537 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] London May 17 SAPA—France welcomes the developments now taking place in South Africa and regards State President F.W. de Klerk's recent decisions as courageous, a French minister has said.

The French embassy in London issued the text of the parliamentary reply which Mr. Thierry de Beauce, state secretary at the ministry of foreign affairs, gave to the National Assembly in Paris last week.

"France welcomes the developments under way in South Africa," Mr. de Beauce said.

"The decisions President de Klerk has taken since February 2 are courageous. I am thinking in particular of the legalisation of the African National Congress [ANC], Pan-Africanist Congress and Communist Party and the release of political prisoners, especially that of Nelson Mandela."

Mr de Beauce said the negotiations between the South African Government and the ANC in Cape Town earlier this month were viewed with "great satisfaction by France."

"France observers, however, that there is still a long way to go in order fully to dismantle apartheid, which she has always unreservedly condemned," he said.

On the question of lifting sanctions against South Africa, Mr de Beauce said: "for France, who is working together with her (European) community partners, the South African authorities must irreversibly set in train the process of dismantling apartheid and democratising political life in South Africa."

"This is the conclusion of the fact-finding mission of the European troika in which I took part and which in South Africa itself was able to meet all sides and particularly President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela."

Magnus Malan on Defense Force, Political Unrest*MB1305121190 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 13 May 90*

[Text] The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, says the defense force has to be in a strong position so that it can help the police to maintain physical safety, stability, and law and order in the uncertain political period that South Africa has entered. Gen. Malan was speaking on board the navy replenishment vessel Taffelberg during a tour of Cape west coast units by parliamentary study groups on defense.

Asked whether the decreased threat from across South African borders would bring about a shift of emphasis, Gen. Malan said political and economic reform could not take place if the internal situation was unstable. The defense force was geared to play an important role internally, and in ensuring the integrity of the country's borders. If a situation arose in which the police were unable to handle unrest, the Defense Force would help. Gen. Malan said there was much restlessness among black people in the townships, and that this was a cause for concern.

Minister Encourages Force To Accept All Groups*MB1605160390 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1517 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Parliament May 16 SAPA—It was time that consideration be given to drawing national servicemen from men and even women of all population groups, the minister of defence, Gen Magnus Malan, said on Wednesday.

Introducing debate on the defence vote, he said that people of other groups stood shoulder to shoulder with "us whites" in protecting South Africa and its security.

It was a fact that the stumbling blocks of the past were disappearing.

The conduct of coloured permanent force members in the unrest in Natal had made him realise again that a soldier was a soldier.

"In the SADF [South African Defense Force] what matters in the performance on duty is not the colour of a man's skin but his merits, his preparedness to serve and his doing his duty. This is the standard against which a man or a woman in the SADF must be measured."

General Malan said, at this stage there was no talk or intention of increasing the period of national service again.

He hoped that the increased citizen force and commando commitments announced last month could be speedily revised.

Health Minister Opens Parliament Budget Debate

MB1605134890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1242 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Parliament May 16 SAPA—The government had decided that all beds in all hospitals had to be accessible to all people, the minister of health and population development, Dr Rina Venter, announced on Wednesday.

Opening debate on her budget vote, she also announced that nurses were to receive a special allowance from April 1, 1990.

She also announced the country's health services were to be reconstructed on the basis of five identified principles concerning:

- accessibility of health services;
- efficacy of health care programmes;
- affordability of health services;
- equity in the provision of health services; and
- acceptability of health services.

Dealing with accessibility, he said that if a norm of three beds per 1,000 population applied, there was a surplus of 11,700 beds for whites and a shortage of 7,000 beds for blacks in hospitals.

To correct this, the government had decided that the available capacity of beds in all hospitals had to be accessible to all people and that a model be designed to manage this in an orderly fashion.

However, hospital care was not the greatest need in South Africa to bring accessibility to a satisfactory level. It had been decided that greater balance be obtained between primary health care and services in hospitals.

Dealing with efficacy of health care, the minister said it had been decided to develop a national policy within set principles to ensure efficiency.

This would ensure that rationalisation took place where possible, that national standards within affordable limits ensured the rendering of services, and that nationally planned services would keep account of the health needs of the total population.

She then announced that all nurses would receive a special allowance and that the inquiry of the Commission for Administration into specific career adjustments for nurses had been completed.

"It is currently being cleared up with all interested parties," she said.

Other problems which had come to the fore in the investigation were also being addressed.

Dealing with affordability of services, Dr Venter said that before any new hospitals were built a re-evaluation of all areas in the country would have to be made.

"The approach to this evaluation will be that all hospitals are accessible to all persons and that no facility may remain under-utilised while new ones are being built."

The full use of all the hospital care capacity and academic facilities the government has available was, however, subject to the availability of funds. Solutions in this case would have to be sought in the private sector.

"In order to make health care more affordable, the importance of primary health care is once again stressed."

"The relative low cost of establishing and running community health centres immediately ensures the increase of our aim of affordable accessibility.

"In South Africa there must be a hierarchy of services—clinic, community hospital, regional hospital and academic hospital. Every patient must be handled on the lowest level where he can be handled most efficiently."

A model for greater management independence for academic hospitals was being developed and two solutions had already been approved.

These were:

—increasing the income of academic hospitals. This would mean that in future private patients would have to pay for the professional services they received at academic hospitals. The additional income would not influence the allocation to the hospitals and they would have these additional funds at their disposal.

—a private consultant was already busy with a cost-analysis study at Tygerberg Hospital in the Cape, thus ensuring that sufficient information was available for thorough planning and the establishment of a more suitable model of management.

Dealing with equity, Dr Venter said the difference in the health statute between the various groups in South Africa could only be addressed by a fair division of funds. Such a division for the provision of primary health care would in future be defined by a formula taking two facts into account: the population figures within a region and the health status of the inhabitants.

"If the health status is poor, more funds are allocated," the minister said.

The health of people was a very personal matter, and therefore the state was responsible for ensuring that all programmes to provide health services had a high degree of acceptability.

"Enough space must exist for personal preference of religious practices, cultural approaches and communication means.

"The condition of the patient's health must also at the same time be taken into consideration. For this reason precautions will be taken to subject all health programmes to specific standards which will ensure the acceptability thereof by all people."

The above-mentioned five principles would make it possible that an orderly reconstruction of health services in the public sector is handled systematically.

Mandela Reacts To Hospital Desegregation

*MB1705085390 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] Nelson Mandela has downplayed the ending of hospital apartheid. Mandela has arrived in Algeria.

Apartheid is very much alive in South Africa he told reporters who asked him his reaction to the desegregation of hospitals announced yesterday by health minister, Rina Venter.

Mandela said whites' medical unions were recognized while those of blacks were not, and referred to the major disparity in starting wages between blacks and whites.

Before Mandela left Nigeria for Algeria he addressed a Commonwealth foreign ministers' meeting. Both he and Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal, attacked the British Government for easing sanctions on South Africa.

Department Extends Comoran Mercenary's Visa

*MB1605132490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1240 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Pretoria May 16 SAPA—French mercenary Colonel Bob Denard will be allowed to stay in South Africa pending the outcome of an inquiry into the assassination of President Abdallah of the Comoros—allegedly at the hands of the colonel.

The extension of Col Denard's temporary residence permit was confirmed on Wednesday by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria.

Requests that Col Denard be allowed to reside in South Africa were received from both the Comoran and French Governments.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha was informed of the recognition granted by the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for South African assistance in removing foreign mercenaries from the Indian Ocean island.

And in the same letter, dated May 4, Mr Botha's Comoran counterpart requested that Col Denard be allowed to continue living in South Africa.

This request was made in anticipation of the outcome of the commission of inquiry into the assassination of Pres Abdallah, foreign affairs said.

The French Government had similarly been consulted and had requested that Col Denard be permitted to remain in South Africa.

"In the light of these requests, and in order to accommodate the legitimate concerns of the Comoros Government and people, an extension to Col Denard's temporary residence permit has been granted," the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Police Release ANC Dissidents 15 May

*MB1705092490 Johannesburg THE CITIZEN
in English 16 May 90 pp 1, 4*

[Text] A group of eight dissident members of the African National Congress [ANC], who were held in terms of the Internal Security Act on their arrival in South Africa on April 24, were released late last night.

It is understood that a Pretoria-based Black church group is to take care of the eight—six men and two women—while they seek their families and relatives in South Africa.

The eight were held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act when they arrived at Jan Smuts Airport on a flight from Malawi, pending an investigation of their backgrounds before their release was considered.

Each of the women had a young child with her, and the children were allowed to stay with their mothers on humanitarian grounds.

The six men in the group, who along with the women escaped from the ANC's Dakawa camp in Tanzania, were participants in a mutiny against the ANC in Angola in 1984 and were formerly imprisoned in the ANC's notorious Quatro prison camp.

Now they are free, they are expected to give the first actual account of the 1984 rebellion by members of the ANC, as well as comment on the conditions at Quatro.

One of the women was a wardress at Quatro. While she was there, one of her charges was the South African spy, Olivia Fosyth, who later escaped from the ANC by hiding up in the British embassy in Luanda.

The other was a member of the ANC's security department.

The group, which includes Mr Mwezi Twala, a well-known former commander in the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, is reported to be anxious to form a political group in opposition to the ANC.

In gathering evidence of alleged ANC atrocities, the group also wants to contact the families of ANC members who have been killed or vanished.

Former Prisoners Meet Press

MB1605164290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1616 GMT 16 May 90

[By Dominique Gilbert]

[Excerpt] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—A group of eight people, introduced at a press conference on Wednesday as the "Mkata Shinga Group" of ANC [African National Congress] dissidents, claimed they had all been imprisoned and harshly treated in the ANC's Quatro prison camp in Angola.

Apparent leader of the group, Rodney Mueze Twala, formerly of Evaton in the Transvaal, who said he left South Africa in 1975 to undergo military training in the Soviet Union and Angola, alleged that:

- during 1979 and 1980 ANC members were sent to fight in Rhodesia against Ian Smith's government as well as current President Robert Mugabe's ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] forces on the side of Joshua Nkomo's forces;
- later ANC members were sent to fight against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] forces in Angola;
- hundreds of people were tortured and/or killed in various ANC prison camps;
- he and his group tried to elicit the help of the SA Council of Churches' general secretary, the Rev Frank Chikane, who allegedly visited the ANC's Dakawa prison camp last year. There was no response; and
- the ANC's chief of staff, Chris Hani, organised a firing squad which resulted in seven deaths after a mutiny at the ANC's Pango prison camp, also in Angola.

Mr Twala and his group—Robert Vusumuzi Shange of Soweto, Diliza Abednego Mthembu of Soweto, David Makhubedu of Soweto, Luthando Nicholas Dyasop of Umtata, Sipho Malcolm Pungulwa of Port Elizabeth, Motyatyambo Yokuqala Mzimeli of Mdantsane and Patheka Patricia Sodo of Mdantsane—were all released from custody under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act on Tuesday [15 May] night.

They were detained on their arrival from Malawi at Jan Smuts Airport on April 24, and claim to have been participants in a mutiny against the ANC in Angola in 1984.

They claim later to have been prisoners at the ANC's Quatro camp and subsequently the ANC's Dakawa prison camp in Tanzania from which they claim they recently managed to escape—deciding to return to SA.

"We decided that what was happening in exile meant it would be better to go home and face the music. It is better to be in a South African prison where friends and relatives can visit and at least your life is guaranteed," Mr Twala, also a claimed former Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation, ANC military wing] commander, said.

The group were introduced by the archbishop of the World Missionary Association and president of the federation of the New Generation, the Rev Evangel Malamb, who together with the group faced tough questioning from a large contingent of local and foreign journalists. [passage omitted]

Court Sentences ANC Deputy Chief of Staff

MB1605202090 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2000 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—A crowd shouting slogans, singing and dancing, disrupted a Johannesburg regional court on Wednesday after an African National Congress [ANC] deputy chief of staff was jailed for three years on charges of terrorism.

Vuni Magomozulu, 27, of Tembisa, was convicted of leaving South Africa in 1985 and undergoing military training with the ANC in Angola where he occupied "a leadership position".

He was arrested in 1988 and the court was told he had in his possession a Makarov pistol.

The presiding magistrate, Mr P.F. du Plessis, said he took into account the fact that the accused had been advised by a sociologist to leave South Africa because of community problems in Tembisa.

However, he said "acts of terrorism from either the right or the left" could not be condoned.

Mr du Plessis said Magomozulu still identified with the aims of the ANC "and if this organisation called on him to continue the armed struggle he would obey".

Police Confirm Two Dead in Welkom Mine Unrest

MB1605193890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1858 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—Police have confirmed that two men were killed in a confrontation between demonstrating mineworkers and mine security at the President Steyn Number 1 shaft in Welkom on Wednesday afternoon.

Police spokesman Col J.L. de Vries said 30 black mineworkers had been dismissed on Tuesday [15 May] following a confrontation with white mine workers and officials at the mine.

He said the 30 men refused to accept the dismissal.

"On Wednesday between 4pm and 5pm about 50 black mineworkers were toyi-toying [protest dancing] at Number 1 shaft. Mine security confronted them and instructed them to disperse," said Col de Vries.

He said the mineworkers had attacked security officials.

"The mine security officials retaliated with rubber bullets and 9mm pistols."

In the attack on the mine officials one of the security staff was apparently hurt and died later in hospital.

Col de Vries said a second man who had been taking a short cut through mine property ran into the confrontation. "He tried to run away but the blacks got hold of him and killed him," he said.

Eleven men are in hospital under police guard. The police were unable to ascertain the extent of their injuries.

Sisulu Addresses Pietermaritzburg College Students

*MB1605235890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2133 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Pietermaritzburg May 16 SAPA—The concept of group rights, as advanced by the De Klerk government, was intended to negate the ANC's [African National Congress] basic demand that the people must govern and that institutions of government that would ensure this were developed.

This was said by the leader of the internal core of the African National Congress, Mr Walter Sisulu, at Wednesday's Edgar Brookes Memorial Academic Freedom lecture at the Pietermaritzburg campus of the University of Natal.

Speaking to a packed student's union Mr Sisulu, who turns 78 tomorrow, said what were basically illegitimate minority privileges were depicted by "the defenders of apartheid" as minority rights that were founded on the right to self determination.

He said the ANC recognised the rights, not the privileges, of minorities in the new South Africa without negating the quest for a dynamic, non-racial society.

On the recent Groote Schuur talks, he said the ANC intended to keep its commitment made at the discussions that it would work towards the eradication of violence from all quarters.

"No-one should assume, though, that our commitment means that our people shall not defend themselves from aggression from whatever quarter," he said.

An "exchange of ideas" with regard to the armed struggle had begun within the organisation, Mr Sisulu said, but no official position had been taken yet.

Mr Sisulu reiterated the ANC's call that the Natal violence should come to an immediate end, and said both his organisation and the government agreed that violence from all quarters should be stopped.

"Those who, with their statements, their provocation of communities, their theft of weapons for themselves or other parties, their fascist parades and other actions, are fanning the fires of violence in South Africa must be warned that their actions will be disastrous for this country," he said.

Education was considered by the ANC to be fundamental to the attainment of a sustainable democratic society, Mr Sisulu said. "Forces of oppression in South Africa wanted to limit the horizons of the oppressed and to deny them the intellectual tools that would help them eradicate poverty, superstition and a philosophical outlook that makes them a permanent underclass," he said.

Mr Sisulu said the current education crisis in the country was the most serious problem which had to be faced by our society. Universities, he said, were crucial to the provision of answers to the complex questions which confronted this country.

"We are sitting on a smoking volcano whose ultimate explosion will completely obliterate all our hopes for a free and democratic society in this country," he warned.

Mr Sisulu called on all sectors of South African society who shared the ideals of a democratic society for the country to work with the ANC in the search for answers.

PAC, Church Council Leaders Meet, Issue Statement

*MB1605233490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2234 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—A delegation of leaders of the South African Council of Churches [SACC] had talks in Johannesburg on Wednesday with the executive of the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC].

A statement later by SACC's general secretary, the Rev Frank Chikane, said the discussions were "on issues that affect ourselves and the nation".

Further comment could not be obtained from Mr Chikane.

The SACC delegation comprised: Dr M. Buthelezi, president; Mrs Sheena Duncan, vice-president; Anglican executive member, Canon W. Ndungane; the Rev P. Makhubu, general secretary of the Council of African Independent Churches; Presbyterian executive member, the Rev M. Hlongwane; SACC executive member, Mr. G. Zabala and Mr Chikane.

On the PAC side were: the president, Mr Zeph Mothopeng; general secretary internal PAC, Mr Benny Alexander; legal and welfare secretary, Mr P. Dlamini; publicity and information secretary, Mr B. Ntoele; secretary for culture, Mr M. Morokeng and health secretary Ms Nana Moabi.

Inkatha To Consider Opening Membership

*MB1605151490 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1400 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Inkatha could soon open its membership to all races.

As Peter auf der Heyde reports, this decision is likely to be taken at the next annual general meeting of the organization:

[Begin Auf der Heyde recording] Inkatha General Secretary Oscar Dhlomo told me this afternoon that the AGM [annual general meeting], which is to be held in July, was expected to ratify a decision taken earlier by the Central Committee to open membership to all races.

He said that constitutionally the Central Committee was not in a position to determine policy without the general conference. We can make a strong recommendation that is not likely to be rejected by the general conference, he said.

Dr. Dhlomo, who is also the minister of education in the KwaZulu government, said that this year's conference would be important as it is the first since the unbanning of other liberation movements. He said it would hail the birth of a new image for Inkatha in South African politics. [end recording]

Authorities To Legalize Private Satellite Dishes

*MB1505133390 Johannesburg Television Service
in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 14 May 90*

[Text] South Africa will soon legalize the use of private satellite dishes.

Dr. Dawie de Villiers, the minister of mineral and energy affairs and public enterprises, made the announcement this morning at the opening of the (?telemetric) conference, in Durban.

Elize van der Walt asked Dr. de Villiers what the announcement means to the public:

[Begin video recording] [De Villiers] The opportunity has now arisen for those people who want to erect a dish to receive various international television stations to do so.

But, this dish is obviously expensive. I think the cost of erecting such a dish could easily be between 10,000 and 20,000 rand, and a subscriber, like in the case of M-Net or South African Television, must pay a regular monthly or annual fee. This is, therefore, not something anyone can do.

[Van der Walt] The owner of such a private satellite dish would probably have to abide by certain regulations.

[De Villiers] Yes. Technical guidelines, in particular, should be followed to ensure that our international agreements with the satellite company are maintained and to ensure good standards.

These guidelines will soon be published in the Government Gazette. [end recording]

New Chamber of Business Issues Rights Charter

*MB1605161490 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1513 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—The South African [SA] Chamber of Business was officially launched in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

At an official function, the organisation, the result of a merger between the Federated Chamber of Industries and ASSOCOM [Association of Chambers of Commerce], released details of its charter of economic, social and political rights.

The charter states, among others:

- everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others, including communal ownership as found in traditional communities;
- no one should be deprived of his property without due process of law and compensation;
- everyone should be entitled to equal work opportunities and free choice of employment;
- everyone who works has the right to fair remuneration;
- everyone with contractual capacity shall have the freedom to contract and conclude agreements with others for the promotion of his interests;
- everyone, without discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work;
- everyone has the right to form or join trade unions or commercial, industrial or other associations of his choice for the furtherance or protection of his economic interests, however, no-one may be compelled to join such a union or association;
- all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights;
- everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life and the widest possible assistance should be accorded to the family;
- everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;
- everyone has the right to equal educational opportunities;
- every human being has the right to recognition as a person before the law;
- no one shall be deprived arbitrarily of the right to life, liberty and security of person;
- no one shall be subject to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile and everyone shall be entitled to a fair trial;
- everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of the state;

- everyone has the freedom to leave the country and, if having the right of permanent residence, to return;
- everyone has the right of freedom of expression and opinion;
- any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to any form of discrimination shall be prohibited by law;
- everyone has the right to freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly;
- everyone born in South Africa, the independent or national states or has been naturalised in accordance with law, has the right to SA citizenship;
- every citizen has the right to take part in public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- everyone has the right of equal access to public service;
- due regard being given to the protection of the rights of individuals and minorities, the will of the people is the basis of the authority of the government and this shall be expressed by way of periodic elections which shall be by universal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures;
- the form of any new constitution shall be the subject of negotiations between interested parties and it is essential that any future political system in SA provides the necessary checks and balances, the safeguard of basic human rights and the protection for minorities against domination;
- the state shall not be above the law, but shall through decentralisation and devolution of powers be close to the people and respond to their needs;
- economic freedom, the private enterprise ethic and the norms with which they are associated should be entrenched in an appropriate future political system;
- the institutions of democratic government, in particular the separation of state powers, the independence of the judiciary and the supremacy of the law, the freedom of the press and the free formation of political parties shall be the foundations of SA statehood;
- SA shall respect the rights and independence of all nations and shall strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international dispute by negotiation;
- other peoples right to independence and self-governments shall be recognised;
- everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms identified in the charter and exercise of these rights and freedoms shall be subject to limitations determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others;
- in times of public emergency which threaten the life of the nation or the democratic institutions of the state, the state may take such measures to the extent strictly required to meet the exigencies of the situation, provided such measures are consistent with the law and do not involve unlawful discrimination.

The charter urges all members of industry, commerce and business to adhere to these rights and principles.

It undertakes to influence government, political parties and groups to abide by the rights and principles set out and to scrutinise all remaining discriminatory laws and practises.

It undertakes to work towards the termination of unrest and conditions of emergency and to explore and support means of social, economic and political debate and constitutional negotiation towards the realisation of such rights.

The charter further undertakes to support education, training programmes and social welfare schemes, to abolish remaining racial discrimination within business and to launch programmes for better public understanding of human rights.

It undertakes to aim for peace and stability in SA and seeks international understanding and co-operation to this end.

Johannesburg Stock Exchange Examines Future Role

*MB1605195290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1759 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Johannesburg May 16 SAPA—The Johannesburg Stock Exchange [JSE] is reviewing the whole question of its role in the future SA, and has a commitment to being relevant to the society it serves, says JSE Executive President Tony Norton.

Delivering his presidential address on Wednesday evening, Mr Norton added that the JSE takes a positive view of the future as with political reform is coming strong and wide economic reform.

"Many of the shackles of the past look like being removed. Some new ones might be imposed by political compromise, but on balance we see better overall economics in the future than in the past."

Mr Norton said that the politics of power were vastly different to the politics of opposition. It was truism that the country's rulers of the future were going to need massive wealth as the cement for the future society. Hence the agencies for wealth creation and the efficient transfer were going to be more and not less important.

The JSE has identified the popularisation of share investment as an important element in creating effective common values and goals for the future SA. Accordingly, the JSE has taken a policy decision to do everything reasonable to enable companies to involve workers in their equity performance, be it shares or profits, Mr Norton said.

"For example, subject to certain provisions, we would not object to free or subsidised issues of shares."

Gold Output Drops to 1.56 Million Ounces in Apr

*MB1505151890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1509 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] Johannesburg May 15 SAPA—SA's gold output for April dropped by 45,867 ounces to 1.56 million ounces compared with March's output of 1.60 million ounces. According to figures released by the Chamber of Mines on Tuesday, April's output is also down on the output for the corresponding month last year when production reached 1.61 million ounces. The January to April output of 6.32 million ounces also reflects a drop compared with the 6.44 million ounces produced in the same period last year.

16 May Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB1605120790

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Publications Act Censorship—Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw "said it would not easily happen in the future that the Publications Act would be abused for political purposes," remarks Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 16 May in a page 12 editorial. "Well! Charitably, let's say that it is perhaps because Mr. Louw is new to his job that he doesn't seem to recall censorship law being abused." THE STAR warns that if "political censorship is still practised today, tomorrow the National Party might find the same machinery and the same reasoning used to prevent its own views being aired."

BUSINESS DAY

Bureaucracy Makes 'Mess' of Black Education—"When a deputy minister responsible for education confesses to 'a feeling of dread' about the prospects for this year's crop of black matric pupils, the failure of the education system—and the failure of those who run it—is no longer a matter of debate," notes Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 16 May in a page 14 editorial. "This year's crop of matriculants, like last year's, and most of those of the preceding decade, constitute a wasted generation that will plague this country for decades to come." "Much has been written about the causes of this catastrophe, most of it blaming the government (for whatever good that will do), and some of it blaming the teachers and the parents. Yet it all boils down to a single root cause: the education of the children has been taken out of the hands of the parents, and put into the hands of a centralised bureaucracy which has made of education in this country what communist bureaucrats made of industry in the Soviet Union: an irreparable mess."

SOWETAN

Minister Raises Hopes on Group Areas—"Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel has raised hopes that the Group Areas Act is to be scrapped," declares Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 16 May

in a page 6 editorial. "If this is not some more National Party ambiguity, it is news that will be welcomed by the majority of South Africans. The Group Areas Act, like the Population Registration Act, is among the major pillars of apartheid. The Government should really scrap this law and not replace it with something as clumsy as the Free Settlement Areas Act."

THE NATAL WITNESS

'No Going Back' on ANC-Government Talks—Pietermaritzburg THE NATAL WITNESS in English on 7 May in a page 6 editorial remarks: "Despite the fulminations of the Conservative Party [CP] and the peevishness of the former State President, there is no doubt that last week's initial round of talks between the Government and the ANC [African National Congress] has set South Africa on a new path from which there can and will be no going back." But "let no one be too carried away by euphoria," warns the paper. "While President de Klerk will be embarking on his European tour and more warmly welcomed than any South African leader since General Smuts, the unrest in the townships, especially in Natal, continues. This is hardly part of a 'normal' society. It is to reducing such violence that both the authorities and the ANC will have to devote priority attention."

TRANSVALER

Government To Make Group Concept 'Acceptable'—Johannesburg TRANSVALER in Afrikaans on 11 May says in a page 8 editorial Constitutional Development and Planning Minister Viljoen said in a parliamentary address the "greatest challenge for the government and the National Party is to make its group concept acceptable and more marketable. U.S. reaction to President de Klerk's view earlier that a simplistic majority government is not acceptable, indicates what a gigantic task it will be to make the group concept acceptable abroad." "There is unfortunately also deep-rooted prejudice that the government simply wants to disguise apartheid/white domination."

BEELD

CP Changes Partition Policy to 'Secession'—"Dr. Gerrit Viljoen touched a raw nerve in right wing politics when he said the CP quietly changed its partition policy to separation, or secession," observes Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 1 May in a page 8 editorial. If CP leader Andries Treurnicht "does not speak out unequivocally against the separation of a patch of land in South Africa for the establishment of a white state, one should know the Afrikaner homeland idea is still more popular in the CP than the domination idea. It means the political and geographical reality of South Africa is getting through to the CP." BEELD, nevertheless says, "secession makes sense in a sort of perverse way. It can be brought to the negotiation table—more than can be said for partition, apartheid, or domination."

17 May Press Review

MB1705124490

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Tutu, ANC Should Stop Punishing RSA—"Everyone knows that the reforms are irreversible. Yet Archbishop Tutu still has to be the Archbishop of Sanctions, still has to meddle in matters that do not concern him," declares the Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 15 May in a page 6 editorial. "Archbishop Tutu and Dr Boesak should return to their religious duties and tend their flock, as we have always suggested they do. Mr Nelson Mandela, who has replaced Archbishop Tutu as the star attraction on the overseas circuit, also calls for the retention of sanctions." "It is the same kind of schizophrenia that Mr Mandela displays over violence and the 'armed struggle'." "To go on punishing South Africa is foolish and unjustified; the changes Mr de Klerk has introduced are unstoppable." However, "the concessions up to now have been too one-sided; it is time the ANC [African National Congress] contributed its share to the climate needed for peaceful negotiation."

'FW, Nelson Shows on the Road'—"It is a remarkable situation," notes THE CITIZEN on 16 May in a page 6 editorial. President de Klerk is traveling through Europe "selling his reform programme" while ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela is traveling through Africa "emphasising that sanctions should stay." "Whose view prevails—Mr de Klerk's or Mr Mandela's—will be of vital importance." Both men are scheduled to visit the United States, where "we cannot anticipate what kind of reaction Mr de Klerk will have. Certainly the Bush administration is now less strident in its assessment of the South African situation," and seems "very pleased with the negotiations between Mr de Klerk and the ANC and hopes they will continue. But it still insists on majority rule." "Of the two visitors to Washington, it seems Mr Mandela will have the advantage, with a ticker tape parade in New York and the opportunity to address a joint sitting of both Houses of Congress. We do not begrudge him his 'heroic' status. He is, after all, playing a major role in the creation of a new South Africa and he deserves the respect that is given him. But it does seem strange that the leader of the ANC should be treated officially on a par with the State President unless, of course, the Americans are hedging their bets in case Mr Mandela becomes State President." "The FW and Nelson Shows are on the road," "and the audience reaction to each performer will have more than a passing bearing on the fate of this country."

THE STAR

Homeland Reincorporation 'Must Be Quick'—"The granite wall of apartheid is collapsing fast now. The Government has at last conceded, in the words of Development Aid Minister Stoffel van der Merwe, that independence is no longer considered a worthwhile

option for the black homelands," states the Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 17 May in a page 20 editorial. Homelands, "a grotesque social engineering experiment", "cost South Africa a fortune, in money and in human relations. Their reincorporation must be quick and their place in South Africa's central constitutional system assured."

Government Reconsiders Education System—A second editorial on the same page of THE STAR observes: "Apartheid education is by no means a thing of the past, nor will it be for years to come. But the cracks now starting to appear in a once rigid schools policy at least suggest a realisation that separate school systems are unjust and unworkable. Significantly, the Government is now prepared to talk about a single education system for the whole country." "White schools closed through lack of white pupils will be 'selectively' taken over for black education. This overdue step will go some way towards redressing injustice and relieving endemic overcrowding." While future schools "would not be run along racial lines," "parental choice would still be an important factor." A Human Sciences Research Council survey "shows that a clear majority of white adults now favour racially open schools, provided standards and admission requirements are maintained." "The message is clear: The country is beginning to realise that it can no longer continue pursuing a policy which has proved so disastrous."

BUSINESS DAY

Pace of Change Needs Watching—"The move towards a nonracial society is developing such a pace that the momentum is surely unstoppable," states the Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 17 May in a page 8 editorial. "The pace of change is already quicker than any of us realised. Government is doing more than fleshing out its objective with a series of policy statements which put the arrival of the new South Africa beyond doubt; the dismantling of one discriminatory edifice after the other hastens its advent." "This has all happened in months, and maintaining the momentum over the years of negotiation that lie ahead will not be easy." "There is as yet no cause for suspicion; the steady succession of steps indicates government has thought sensibly and logically about what must be done and intends doing it. The question is whether the pace of change will quicken uncontrollably to the point where it threatens the process itself. The plan may be for a reasonably gentle ride to the new South Africa on a series of announcements, not all necessarily momentous; the combined effect may hurl us into a roller coaster."

Transportation Privatization Termed 'Triumph'—"If the opponents of privatisation were open to reason, which few of them seem to be, they would recognise in the declining number of passengers carried by the railways, by the municipal transport service, and by government-subsidised transport companies, a triumph of privatisation," asserts BUSINESS DAY in a second editorial on the same page. "It makes no difference that, in this case,

privatisation of the transport industry was achieved illegally by the owners of mini-buses—the results have been those normally expected of privatisation.” “The political opposition to privatisation, though ignorant, has become so fierce that there is a real question whether government should press the issue at this stage. Much the same result can be achieved simply by removing all legislative and regulatory opposition to free competition against state-owned or parastatal monopolies. Free enterprise will do the rest.”

SOWETAN

Money Needed To Solve Black Education Crisis—“Mooi River Member of Parliament Mr Wessels Nel was right when he said the Minister of Education and Training would not only need Solomon’s wisdom but plenty of money as well to solve the crisis in black education. It appears that there is some thinking about the problem in Government circles,” observes the Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 17 May in a page 6 editorial. The minister said that the government is “ready to muster all available resources”, “but the Government is still churning out statistics that look great on paper, but mean nothing in real terms.” “The problem is the quality and quantity of the products of the school system in this country.” It is “a crisis that requires careful short and long term planning before solutions can be found.”

CAPE TIMES

Viljoen, Government Flexibility Praised—“The De Klerk government is moving rapidly to position itself to maximum advantage as constitutional negotiations draw closer. Its readiness to negotiate a settlement is plain and has been underlined once again in Parliament by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the government’s chief negotiator, who is sounding more flexible than ever in the difficult area of group or minority rights,” observes the Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 11 May in a page 6 editorial. “His flexibility is most welcome, challenging the ANC and other potential negotiating partners to match the De Klerk government in readiness to compromise.” “So what is he aiming to achieve at the negotiating table?” “Dr Viljoen may well be thinking in terms of an executive government in which all significant parties have a say, yet in which the majority necessarily has the greatest say. How a power-sharing compromise can be achieved in practice remains to be seen. Mutual trust and confidence will be essential, whatever the constitutional provisions.”

EC ‘Coming Up to Scratch’—The 14 May CAPE TIMES writes in a page 6 editorial: “President de Klerk’s bold initiatives are paying off handsomely. Since he has been as good as his word, the European Economic Community is coming up to scratch. Some people had feared that whatever South Africa was prepared to do, the goalposts would keep moving, and sanctions would be intensified. Such fears are proving groundless. South Africa’s traditional friends in the Western community of nations” “are acting quickly to acknowledge the strides which

have been made.” “Yet the formal lifting of sanctions, when it comes, will not be enough. Foreign and domestic investors will be cautious, waiting to see whether the transition to the new South Africa will be reasonably peaceful and stable. Massive investment of foreign capital is essential if this country’s economy is to grow fast enough to stave off social upheaval.”

Nation Needs New ‘Language of Liberty’—“The new South Africa lies across a distant horizon but the path towards it is gradually becoming clearer,” comments Ken Owen in a page 6 column in the 14 May CAPE TIMES. “Political thinking is converging so rapidly, and often in such startling ways, that it is difficult to keep pace.” “This groping for common answers to common problems” “stretches far beyond economics. It reaches into every corner of national life, and it is profoundly changing the national consciousness.” “I don’t want to exaggerate, but it is reminiscent of the bursts of creative energy that followed both the American and French revolutions. The pace is breathtaking.” “But as the debate progresses,” “the need for a new political vocabulary grows evident.” We lack the common words, the common language, to define the South Africa that, I believe, most of us want.” “We have spent 40 years developing devil words to counter the Newspeak of apartheid.” “Now we need the language of liberty, and we do not remember the words. We grope in foreign cultures,” “but these phrases do not properly describe the richness, the diversity, the hungers and fears, the soaring promise and the terrible threat, of South African life. We need a new vision of South Africa, and a new vocabulary to create it, and the task begins with finding an appropriate definition of liberty.”

AWB Actions ‘Repulsive’—“The provocative show of force by the AWB [Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging] at the weekend, as widely publicised in the media, was repulsive to law-abiding South Africans in all groups. Not everybody will be as ready as the Minister of Law and Order to accept assurances by the AWB’s leaders that they are merely concerned to help people defend themselves,” asserts the CAPE TIMES on 15 May in a page 6 editorial. “Aggressive displays of militarism are not calculated to calm the atmosphere. If the armed units which were shown off at the weekend were not the nucleus of a private army, what on earth were they? It was a nauseating spectacle.”

* Afrikaner People’s Freedom Charter Published

90AF0080C Pretoria DIE PATRIOT in Afrikaans
9 Mar 90 p 1

[Unattributed text: “The Freedom Charter of the Afrikaner People: 26 May 1990”]

[Text] Our People Believe

that God the Trinity decides on the existence and destiny of nations of people;

that our fathers were led by Him to this land for the purpose of serving him as a people in this land;

that our history reflects His blessing and punishment;

that we must bow before Him in humble obedience and responsibility.

Our People Reject

an undivided, unified state, in which the various peoples must become one nation under one government;

any future domination by a black majority government or any other political system that does not provide for the complete freedom of our people in our own fatherland.

Our People Demand the Right

to survive as a nation of people;

to be free;

to govern ourselves in our own fatherland without any outside interference;

to maintain our identity;

to defend our survival with all the means at our disposal;

to set up our own community life, education, and society according to our own choosing.

Our People Resolve

to recognize God as the absolute supreme power and to honor and serve Him out of gratitude for his grace;

to live according to Biblical requirements concerning morality;

to promote peace, freedom, and well-being;

to preserve the soil of our fatherland;

to promote trust and generosity among fellow Afrikaners;

to pursue peaceful relations with other peoples.

Thus, Our People Say:

We shall not rest until our freedom in our own fatherland has been completely affirmed.

We ask our fellow Afrikaners to support one another in this hour of need and to strengthen our unity.

We ask our fellow Afrikaners to humble themselves before our Heavenly Father and to pray continually for the restoration of our freedom.

We ask our Chief Leader and our Party to rouse our entire Nation of People for the freedom struggle and to use all available means in the struggle in order to realize the above ideal.

"For Freedom, Nation, and Fatherland"

*** CP Claims Afrikaner Freedom Being Threatened**

90AF0080D Pretoria *DIE PATRIOT* in Afrikaans
2 Mar 90 p 6

[Article by Z.B. du Toit: "Afrikaners Forgotten in Era of Nationalism"]

[Text] According to informed sources, an election that just took place in the Soviet republic of Lithuania will be the prelude to the secession from the USSR of that little country on the Baltic Sea. And Moscow has already promised that it will not do anything to prevent this expected event from happening if the majority of the inhabitants support it.

A similar drama is taking place in another small country just north of Lithuania: Latvia. The Latvians have also been through troubled times since their nationalist ambition reached its high point with the declaration of independence on 18 November 1918.

Just like Lithuania (and the third Baltic republic, Estonia), the Latvians were unable to escape the imperialism of their much stronger neighbor, the USSR. On 14 June 1940, Latvia was occupied by Russia, and the Latvians were once again robbed of their freedom.

The ideal of freedom for small nations of people such as the Lithuanians and Latvians is currently being felt around the world, and they are receiving strong support for their effort to regain their independence.

The same thing is now happening with a much larger people, the Germans. While the president of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, only recently was still strongly opposed to a reunified Germany, it now enjoys even his support. The only difference that the Kremlin still has with the West concerning Germany is whether that country will be a member of NATO or whether it will have to pursue a policy of strict neutrality (Mr Gorbachev's choice).

It appears that the West is going to accommodate the Soviet leader and resolve not to deploy NATO troops in the eastern part of the reunified Germany (the present-day GDR).

It is interesting that even leftist and far-leftist FRG political leaders are supporting German unity. Even Mr Willy Brandt, former chancellor and rather far on the left end of that country's political spectrum, is a prominent advocate of German unity. He, as well as the current chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl, is already holding regular meetings in the GDR to garner support for their parties' plans for a reunified Germany.

All of humanity is watching these developments with a great deal of anticipation. Just think about how only relatively recently the world was divided into two apparently rigid camps, eying each other across the gun-sights

of destructive nuclear missiles. A major rearrangement of national states and their rolls in global politics and economics is under way.

As everyone has known for some time now, it is not only the Baltic states and Germany that are involved in this; in literally every other East European state as well, there is a greater or lesser degree of commotion surrounding democratization of the state structure and the full realization of national aspirations.

Since the developments began in the early 1980s in Poland, they have enjoyed the support of all right-thinking people in the world, on the right or on the left end of the spectrum. Everyone hopes that these events will lead to a better world and not only bring the consequences of the Second World War to a close, but also bring a final end to colonialism.

In this epoch-making process, the Afrikaner and his kindred spirits among other white cultural groups run the risk of being forgotten. Whereas other peoples—the Lithuanians, Latvians, Germans, Romanians, Hungarians—are being encouraged to become free, the world is preparing an arrangement for the Afrikaner that is not very different from what happened to the Latvians on 14 June 1940.

The most important reasons for this are that the rulers designated by the Afrikaner people to look after their interests have become unnational and are now renouncing their own people's deepest aspirations. Their primary task is to show Washington, Moscow, London, and Tokyo that there exists an Afrikaner people (including fellow citizens who speak other languages) with just as a much right to freedom as the Germans, the Hungarians, the Lithuanians, or anyone else.

Instead of this, Mr F.W. de Klerk is breathlessly running ahead of the Afrikaner's enemies, so powerless and irresolute that they do not even recognize what a powerful moral argument they have in their hands.

It is truly an unforgivable disservice in an era that is unsurpassed in the opportunities for permanently establishing Afrikaner freedom.

* HNP Condemns Investigation of CCB

90AF0080A Pretoria *DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans*
7 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial in HNP-aligned newspaper: "War Criminals?"]

[Text] In times of war, any state uses unconventional forces in order to engage in combat. The CCB [Civil Cooperation Bureau] must be regarded in that light. Through their activities, the members of the CCB have been at the very forefront in the battle against the assault on the white man in South Africa, and have pursued this battle with daring and distinction.

The following question must be raised: Why are they being put in the pillory while there is silence on all sides concerning the deeds of the murderers of women, children, and the elderly? The answer is not very difficult: It is only the loser in a war that provides war criminals. The winner has only heroes.

The way in which F.W. and his gang are handling the whole business about the so-called "death squads" of the SAP [South African Police] and CCB is just another illustration of the treasonous surrender that they are working on. They and they alone are making Afrikaners into a conquered people—before the Afrikaners have even fought! Following in the footsteps of John Vorster, they believe that "the price of confrontation is too high." In the process, they are turning heroes into criminals.

* Concern About Afrikaans' Official Status

90AF0080B Pretoria *DIE AFRIKANER in Afrikaans*
7 Mar 90 p 8

[Article by E.V. Phalaborwa: "The Future of Afrikaans"]

[Text] According to news reports, President F.W. de Klerk (possibly upon orders from his bosses in the United States) has issued the final surrender and given our country and people over to the ANC [African National Congress] thugs. In the past, criminals have occasionally been released on strict parole, but this time it is unconditional, meaning that all restrictions have been lifted. In other words, murderers can simply resume their old ways. They can simply go on murdering and necklacing. One of the black rulers in the north has already said that the liberation of the south is close at hand.

In keeping with this program, it is likely that Afrikaans will be abolished as an official language. Not only did a number of NP [National Party] supporters go to Lusaka some time ago to talk to the ANC about the future of Afrikaans; the program "The Language That We Speak" has also tried for some time to get its listeners ready for the day when Afrikaans is no longer an official language.

There is talk of great plans to elevate Afrikaans to the glorious status of a new Fanakalo (or everyman's language) for all the black nations of South Africa, but all the letters complaining about the fact that after so many years of NP rule the knowledge of Afrikaans is still not a prerequisite for South African citizenship are simply ignored (a few readers could write the program about citizenship and knowledge of Afrikaans).

The first couple of radio talks by President de Klerk, although broadcast on the Afrikaans program, were given in English... once again to get us ready for the abolition of Afrikaans.

I propose that the party hold a number of gigantic political gatherings where motions of no-confidence in President de Klerk can be expressed, and where official

permission is granted to hold peaceful "no-confidence" demonstrations before the Tuynhuys and parliament.

We must show, as possible descendants of the die-hards who kept up resistance in Haarlem and Leiden even after human flesh was being eaten secretly because of hunger, that we will continue the struggle against the modern Alvas.

* SAYCO Holds First Congress, Elects Officials

* Highlights of Congress

34000623 Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 20-26 Apr 90 pp 6-7

[Text] The hills surrounding KaNyamazane in Kangwane rang with freedom songs and slogans last weekend as youth from all over the country gathered for the first national congress of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco).

Some travelled for 24 hours on buses to get to the Eastern Transvaal venue, while others caught taxis, came by car or hitch-hiked.

And the biggest hall in the bantustan could only just accommodate all 1,500 delegates; guests from as far afield as Cuba, the United States and Sweden, and observers from the Congress of South African Students, Young Christian Students, the SA [South African] National Students' Congress and the National Union of SA Students.

The 10 official Sayco regions—Northern Transvaal, Eastern Transvaal, Southern Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal, Border, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Western Cape and Southern Cape—were joined for the first time by the Transkei region.

Highlights

Highlights of the congress were the opening addresses by ANC [African National Congress] deputy president Nelson Mandela and Sayco president Peter Mokaba, a paper on negotiations by ANC leader Andrew Mlangeni and discussions on the ANC-SACP [African National Congress-South African Communist Party] alliance and the anti-apartheid coalition led by ANC, SACP and Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) veteran Lawrence Phokanoka.

The major areas of debate centred around the restructuring of Sayco, its relationship with the ANC Youth and the situation in Natal.

After much discussion, the congress resolved to transform Sayco from a federal to a unitary structure. The exact process of transformation still has to be worked out, but local youth congresses will all now be guided by the same constitution and will follow a national programme of action.

However, local youth congresses—which will now become Sayco branches—will still be guided by local conditions which will determine how they take up this programme.

ANC Youth

There was much discussion on Sayco's relationship with the ANC Youth Section.

The dominant position put forward at the congress was that most Sayco members would become ANC members. For this reason, it would make no sense for Sayco to exist alongside the ANC Youth League and that Sayco should become part of the Youth League when it is formed.

The view that Sayco should exist alongside the Youth League, but that it should be broadened out and depoliticised to attract the maximum number of youth, won little support at the congress.

It was eventually resolved that as most, if not all, Sayco members were ANC supporters, Sayco members should find their home in the ANC Youth League.

Sayco is to start a process, together with the ANC Youth Section, to formally establish a mass-based ANC Youth League.

The congress recommended that a joint committee made up of members from the Sayco National Executive Committee (NEC) and the ANC Youth Section is established to look into the matter.

The NEC has also been mandated to meet the ANC's Internal Leadership core to discuss the matter.

Local youth congresses are to discuss further the question of Sayco becoming part of the ANC and to educate their members about the ANC.

By centralising and becoming a unitary organisation, Sayco will be in a better position to work towards forming the Youth League.

Natal

The congress devoted a special session to the Natal violence where delegates from Natal were able to put forward their perspectives on the situation.

Many of these delegates had themselves been involved in pitched battles with Inkatha vigilantes backed by the state.

The congress noted that a number of people had tried to alleviate the situation by talking to Inkatha leader Gatsha Buthelezi, but that their efforts had brought no change.

"Buthelezi sees violence against our people as a weapon to enhance his status as a national leader who cannot be left out of negotiations.

"...[He] has realised that violence and violence alone can make Comrade Mandela hold a meeting with him and this meeting would keep Buthelezi in the limelight," said a congress resolution.

It was resolved to isolate Buthelezi, declare him an enemy of the people and urge Mandela not to meet with him.

The congress also resolved that effective defence units had to be established as a matter of urgency and called on MK to assist in the defence of Natal's people.

Noting that the state's security forces together with the KwaZulu police had recently intensified the offensive against the people of Natal, the congress also resolved to campaign for the removal of the security forces, and particularly the KwaZulu police, from Natal.

Elections

By Sunday morning, the list of items to be discussed stretched into the distance. Major discussions such as Sayco's constitution, policy and programme of action still had to be dealt with.

At midnight, the congress was still going full-steam.

As the last item—the election of a new NEC—was reached at 1 am, people started to stir and get excited.

The new Sayco constitution stipulated a 20-person NEC, and regions were to nominate candidates.

Former political prisoner and MK member Regan Shope had the unenviable task of trying to contain the excitement and conduct the elections.

The newly elected NEC is as follows:

President Peter Mokaba (unopposed); vice-president Nyamaseli Boozi; general secretary Rapu Molekane (unopposed); administrative secretary Jerry Ndou; organising secretary Kgaogeio Lekgoro; treasurer Ignatius Jacobs (unopposed); assistant treasurer Fawcett Mathebe; education officer Ephraim Nkoe (unopposed); assistant education officer Febe Potgieter; publicity secretary Kenneth Mphakwana (unopposed); women's organiser Dipuo Peters; assistant women's organiser Nxumisa Kondlo; religious officer Joe Nkuna (unopposed); cultural officer Andy Sefohlela; sports officer Lulamile Georgias; student liaison officer Christopher Mbeke; Pioneers co-ordinator Sharon Davids; labour co-ordinator Norman Mashebane and Vuyo Bodiya as the additional member.

Finally, at 3 am, delegates were free to attend the braai prepared for them some hours earlier.

The following day, the delegates joined hundreds of others dancing in the hot sun to the likes of Bayete, Stimela and Sankomoto at the Youth Festival at Lekazi's stadium.

Then it was time to return home to start implementing the programme of action.

* Resolutions Passed

34000623 Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 20-26 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] Resolutions passed at the congress:

The ANC and the Youth League

All youth in Sayco [South African Youth Congress] will be encouraged to join the ANC [African National Congress], rebuild it and popularise its perspectives, aims and objectives.

Sayco will begin a process, together with the ANC Youth Section, of formally establishing a mass-based ANC Youth League in the country.

The UDF

The UDF [United Democratic Front] must be phased out and its political role must shift to the ANC. The united anti-apartheid front approach is still important and must continue. The ANC must play a central role in building a united front against apartheid.

Violence in Natal

Defence units to defend people against Inkatha are to be formed and MK [Spear of the Nation] is called on to help in this defence. Sayco will campaign for the removal of security forces, especially bantustan police, and national mass protest action to highlight the Natal situation will be embarked on. Inkatha leader Gatsha Buthelezi has been declared an enemy of the people. The youth have called for his isolation, and that Nelson Mandela should not meet him.

State Violence

Law and order minister Adriaan Vlok must resign and the security forces must withdraw from the townships. Should police brutality continue, Sayco will call for talks between the ANC and the government to be suspended. The people, under MK's command, will not hesitate to take up arms against the brutality.

The Bantustans

Organisation must be built in the bantustans and referenda held to test the popularity of bantustan leaders.

Defiance Campaign

Defiance of apartheid laws must continue in all parts of the country under the banner "All Power to the People." People must occupy empty houses in white suburbs. Empty land will also be occupied and houses, creches, schools and recreational facilities built. Mass marches and demonstrations will continue.

The Education Crisis and the NECC

There should be an alliance between the NECC [National Education Crisis Committee], Cosas [Congress of South African Students] and parents. The NECC should assume a mass-based character and Cosas should become central to shaping educational decisions.

Women

Sayco will work to eradicate all sexism, and ensure women are represented at all decision-making bodies. Affirmative action to develop the potential of women will also be embarked on.

Negotiations

There must be maximum mobilisation and organisation of people and the ANC's non-racial vote campaign must be supported. The government must commit itself to immediately establishing an interim government of which the ANC will be part to facilitate a negotiated settlement.

The Harare Declaration

The Harare Declaration must be popularised. It must be translated into other languages, taken to rural communities and discussed through workshops and seminars.

International Solidarity

The international isolation of the apartheid regime must continue and be intensified.

Sanctions

Sanctions must continue, and Sayco will help popularise the call for sanctions.

Foreign Funding

No funds with strings attached can be accepted. However, funds can be accepted from countries that are not supporting the regime. Sayco's NEC must be in charge of controlling and distributing funds.

The Environment

Awareness of the state's abuse of the environment must be built. Youth must be educated about conservation and the development of our natural resources. Sayco should work with existing environmental groups to determine how to manage the environment in the future.

Pioneers

Young children or pioneers need to be cared for and educated. Sayco needs to devise ways of organising children and must establish Pioneers' sections in all its structures.

* Young Lions

34000623 Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 20-26 Apr 90 p 7

[Text] Sayco [South African Youth Congress]'s young lions have drawn up a formidable programme of action to destroy apartheid colonialism.

The congress—which is Sayco's highest decision-making body—committed its membership and resources to the intensification of the struggle at all levels.

It emphasised that mass mobilisation and organisation had to be increased and that the best way to ensure this was to promote mass action around concrete issues and problems facing people.

Strong sectoral organisations had to be built as a matter of priority to cater for the different needs of various groups of people, such as the youth, women, trade unions and civics.

The ANC [African National Congress]'s moral and political influence had to be extended at all levels of society, resolved the congress, and Sayco would help in this process.

The preconditions for negotiations as laid out in the Harare Declaration still have to be met. Sayco committed itself to popularising the declaration and fighting for the preconditions to be met, such as:

- the lifting of the state of emergency;
- the ending of political trials and the release of political prisoners;
- the withdrawal of the security forces from the townships and the stopping of security police action against progressive organisations.

Delegates also committed themselves to winning support for the unifying principles of the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF), specifically emphasising the establishment of a unitary, non-racial and democratic South Africa based on one person, one vote.

Discussing the ANC's constitutional guidelines were also identified as essential. The youth is to conduct door-to-door campaigns to involve people in drawing up a new constitution.

This process would go hand in hand with the non-racial vote campaign to establish a Constituent Assembly to draw up a new constitution for the country.

Non-racialism in action should be built, declared the congress.

At an organisational level, Sayco resolved to restructure itself into a unitary organisation and work to overcome regionalism.

It also resolved to consolidate its various departments and develop programmes of action for each department.

Sayco is to extensively discuss the process of becoming part of the ANC Youth League, and has resolved to set up a joint committee with the ANC Youth Section to discuss the issue.

While consolidating the ANC Youth League as the core of youth structures in the country, Sayco will also help to build a youth front involving ANC youth, students, religious, cultural and sports youth organisations.

*** Messages of Support**

34000623 Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 20-26 Apr 90 pp 6-7

[Text]

ANC Youth Secretariat:

"The convening of your first congress since the launching of Sayco [South African Youth Congress] under difficult conditions three years ago is a befitting tribute to the resilience and determination of the young lions.

"The current phase of our struggle demands political discipline and maximum vigilance. It is a time for intensified mass action in demand for the creation of a climate conducive for a political settlement. Central to this will be the convening of a constituent assembly to draft a democratic constitution for a unitary, non-racial South Africa.

"We are about to begin a process to launch the ANC [African National Congress] Youth League which will maintain overwhelmingly the socio-economic and political interests of the youth. We are confident that Sayco will play a key role in this regard."

Union of Young Communists of Cuba:

"It is an honour for the UYCC [Union of Young Communists of Cuba] to participate in this congress. We are bound to the South African youth not only through our Latin-African identity but also through our common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and racism in all its manifestations.

"The imperialists are wrong if they believe it is possible to reverse the process of socialist construction in Cuba... The Cuban youth, as part of a people who have willingly chosen the building of socialism, are ready to defend loyally both the principles of Marxism-Leninism and our revolution to the ultimate consequences.

"For Cubans, socialism means everything: independence, liberty, dignity. What we are and have today we owe entirely to socialism and believe in its unlimited possibilities.

"Today, more than ever, our youth supports our Revolution, our Party and Fidel [Castro]. The feelings of the

Cuban youth, reflected in recent demonstrations in support of our revolutionary process, are clearly expressed in the current slogan: Socialism or Death.

"We are extremely proud to have offered our modest contribution to the present reality through the participation and sacrifice of our young people in Cuito Cuanavale and elsewhere.

"Long live the Freedom between Cuban and South African Youth!"

*** COSATU Challenged by White Strike**

34000622A Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 12-19 Apr 90 p 21

[Text] Railnet, the railway arm of the newly-constituted Transnet, had its first taste of industrial action involving white workers recently.

An estimated 10,000 members of the exclusively white Artisan Staff Association downed tools in sporadic stoppages in various parts of the country last week in support of wage demands.

The strikes provided the most concrete evidence yet that white workers have cast aside their political loyalty to the government, which, through a series of moves, has abandoned the Afrikaner working class.

Unemployment among whites reached record proportions and, for the first time since the early part of the century, demanded serious attention.

Railway workers first threatened to go on strike in 1988 when the government announced a wage freeze. It was also during this period when members of the SA [South African] Railway and Harbour Workers' Union took strike action at the Durban docks and forced management to refund deductions which workers considered unfair.

Non-striking white workers also won the benefit, mainly as a result of strike action taken by their black colleagues. It was during this period that white railway workers in Durban argued that there was merit in the tactic of mass action.

Nothing, however, came of the threats and the recent spate of stoppages came as a surprise given the fact that, outside the mining industry, white workers have no history of industrial militancy.

But white workers are increasingly making bigger demands on bosses and are no longer prepared to settle for moderate wage offers, especially with the government cutting back on its wage bill.

According to some industrial relations consultants, white workers have increased their wage demands from the normal 15 to 20 percent range to anything up to 60 percent. There is also a willingness to take strike action to support these demands.

Last week's stoppages on the railways is just one example of their preparedness to take action.

The strikes have far-reaching implications, politically and organisationally, for the democratic labour movement. Right-wing political leaders have claimed that a strike by white workers could bring the economy to a standstill in the space of just three days.

Given the fact that they enjoy a monopoly over certain skills, serious disruption of services cannot be ruled out.

A national strike by train drivers, for example, could prevent millions from going to work.

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo says that the strikes present important challenges for the federation.

"The conditions exist now, more than ever before, to build alliances with white workers," he says.

But is this possible given the extreme political position held by the white unions? Naidoo believes it is. "White workers are striking in response to the economic attack on their living standards. This has taken the form of privatisation, deregulation and the wage freeze," he explains.

"They are therefore articulating the same demands as our members and there is therefore common ground to build mass alliances."

But Naidoo expresses caution and says white workers have blamed their falling standard of living on the erosion of apartheid.

Right-wing trade union leaders have seized on this perception and have already indicated that they intend building a super-white union to protect the political and economic interests of the white minority.

Cosatu assistant general secretary Sydney Mufamadi says that the challenge facing the democratic labour movement is to convince white workers that the reasons for their declining living standards rests with the country's capitalist economy, which is dominated by a handful of monopolies.

He says a unifying perspective will have to be identified, but adds that this will not be easy.

"One possibility could be the building of an anti-monopoly front in the same way that we saw the need to organise a broad front against apartheid," Mufamadi says.

"This does not mean that we have to delay the question of organising white workers into Cosatu [Congress of South African Trade Unions]—the resources used to benefit white workers are fast drying up and we need to put this perspective across to them."

Unless this is done soon, a super-white union built on reactionary principles could pose serious political problems for an apartheid-free South Africa.

Gauging from the identification white workers express with right-wing groupings like the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) and the Conservative Party, a super-white union would not experience huge problems recruiting members.

Evidence of identification with right-wing political groups has also been reported from factories and has found expression in attacks on black workers, for example in the mining area of Welkom in the Orange Free State.

Bosses have also reported white workers turning up for duty dressed in khaki uniforms and sporting AWB badges.

At the centre of efforts to form a super-white union are the Mine Workers' Union, Yster en Staal and the Running and Operating Staff Union in Transnet.

*** Eastern Cape Region Civic Groups Unite**

34000622B Johannesburg THE NEW NATION
in English 20-26 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Eastern Cape has taken the lead in consolidating local community structures into a national organisation and has formed an umbrella body to unite all civics in the region.

This move comes at a time when yet another local authority in the region collapsed a few days ago following the resignation of councillors in Jansenville.

Henrie Fazzie, a prominent UDF [United Democratic Front] leader in the region, was elected publicity officer of the interim committee of the umbrella body, the Organisation of Eastern Cape Civic Associations.

Previous attempts in 1984 and 1986 had failed due to state harassment, detentions and the state of emergency.

Fazzie said councils continued to act in ways contrary to public government rhetoric and it was important for civics to intervene where problems such as forced removals and bad living conditions continue to persist.

While the state has growing mass organisation to contend with on the one hand, on the other it is being forced to concede that its own three-tier government structures were collapsing.

Eight community councils in the Eastern Cape and Border lack quorums and cannot operate. The eight councils need another 40 councillors between them in order to work. Another 34 local authorities are short of councillors.

The resignations come in the wake of a string of protest marches and consumer boycotts throughout the region. Very few of the small towns affected have escaped one or other form of mass action and the accompanying calls for an end to separate town councils.

The slogan of the civics, "One city, one municipality," has been echoed by some councillors themselves, including Ibhayi mayor Mhlobo Jemsana, and members of the Gompo town council in Duncan Village, East London.

At a council meeting last week, Jemsana called for the establishment of one municipality for the greater Port Elizabeth area.

He has been forced to admit that the council cannot fulfil its responsibilities of supplying electricity and health services, and said he would hand over responsibilities for services he has failed to provide to the Port Elizabeth municipality.

Meanwhile, youth, women's and student bodies are also growing. Last week, a youth structure in Port Elizabeth's "coloured" Northern Areas decided to dissolve and merge with the city's Sayco branch.

At another meeting in the area, over 2,000 residents voiced their rejection of the Labour Party, and resolved to form a civic structure.

Almost 200 Eastern Cape representatives participated in Sayco's crucial national congress in the Eastern Transvaal over the Easter weekend.

Further east, the Border Civics Congress (Bocco) is expanding its influence and becoming a viable and vocal force, particularly in the rural areas.

In both the Eastern Cape and Border, the local authority system is in tatters. Councils in townships at Kirkwood, Cookhouse, King William's Town, Komga, Stutterheim, Elliot, Indwe and Bedford are defunct.

Councils in Somerset East, Cathcart, Humansdorp, Adelaide, Jamestown, Burgersdorp, Barkly East and Maclear have also been hit by resignations, while there are vacancies on councils in Port Elizabeth (Ibhayi), Uitenhage (Kwanobuhle), Duncan Village, East London (Gompo), Cradock (Lingelihle) and Grahamstown (Rini).

In Kirkwood, where the council lacks a quorum, four members of the Kirkwood Youth Congress, who are also on the community's consumer boycott committee, have been detained.

Angola

Foreign Minister on Talks With UNITA

*LD1605011390 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
2300 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] A cease-fire is absolutely necessary in Angola and may be achieved soon: This was stated by the Angolan foreign minister, currently on a visit to Lisbon. He also admitted that the next round of direct talks between his government and UNITA [National Union for the total Independence of Angola] may take place before the end of the month. As he put it, it all depends on the demarches being carried by several figures. Minister Castro Van Dunem 'Loy' expects this next meeting to produce an agreement conducive to a cease-fire.

On the reforms in South Africa, Van Dunem acknowledged President de Klerk's great courage but said that the process is not yet irreversible. He accused South Africa of resuming intensive military support for UNITA. The South African president has since denied this charge and challenged the Angolan foreign minister to present his evidence so that the matter may be investigated.

Foreign Minister: RSA Circles Support UNITA

*MB1505203790 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy accused certain [Republic of] South African [RSA] circles of increasing their support for UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

A Voice of America report monitored in Luanda said the Angolan minister has admitted the possibility that South African President Frederik de Klerk is unaware of those circles' increased support for UNITA.

The South African head of state is currently visiting Portugal. He asked the Angolan foreign minister to explain the reasons for his accusations so he can order investigations into the sources of such support.

While in Lisbon, after visiting Norway, Angolan Foreign Minister van Dunem Loy took the opportunity to [words indistinct] information regarding the visit by Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs.

Herman Cohen met with Durao Barroso, Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, in the Portuguese capital. The two officials discussed direct contacts between the Angolan Government and UNITA.

Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy stopped over in Lisbon after attending a meeting of frontline and Nordic countries in Oslo, Norway.

Defense Minister on UNITA, Zairian Territory

*MB1605203190 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1925 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Angolan Defense Minister Colonel General Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale reiterated in Uige Province yesterday the Angolan authorities' willingness to continue to try to achieve peace.

Col. Gen. Pedale told the news media at the end of a working visit to Uige Province that the peace plan drafted by the Angolan Government is currently deadlocked due to the increase in enemy actions in several parts of the country:

[Begin Pedale recording] On the one hand, we fight those who attack us and the people and who murder defenseless civilians; on the other hand, we try to find ways of ensuring peace and of implementing the peace plan drafted by the government.

Unfortunately, there has been a number of obstacles created by foreign interference in the whole process, namely the publicly stated U.S. position of continuing to aid UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

We continue to face a number of problems. Accordingly, the country's overall situation fits within this framework. There has been an increase in military operations carried out by the bandits in specific areas. This has forced the leadership of our armed forces to take measures to ensure security and the physical integrity of the population, and particularly the protection of the country's economic objectives.

The political and military situation has not changed that much. There is an impasse in the implementation of the peace program. As you all know, it's only possible to reconstruct the country if there is peace. Generally speaking, this is the situation we are still experiencing. [end recording]

The defense minister mentioned the possibility of the Zairian territory being used by UNITA to step up its bandit activities in northern Angola:

[Begin Pedale recording] It's possible that actions are carried out from Zaire. On many occasions we alerted our neighbors to this situation, clearly telling them that we feel there is a laissez-faire attitude on the part of the Zairian authorities who allow their territory to be used by the UNITA armed gangs to step up their activities in specific areas, mainly in northern Angola. We have clearly stated that, in view of the facts, there is no doubt that the Zairian territory is being used, mainly by the Americans, to supply war equipment to UNITA bandits.

Angolans living along the border are witnesses to this situation. Moreover, the comrades who live here in Zaire Province [as heard], which borders Zaire, have no doubts about that. You can talk to the residents of the

Maquela do Zombo region, who will tell you that, in fact, there are infiltrations from the Zairian territory into our territory.

A case in point is the presence of several UNITA bandit elements in Cabinda Province. They can only come from Zairian territory to carry out any type of action on the border between Cabinda Province and Zaire. We have already issued statements in this regard, and all we can do now is to wait for our neighbors to take appropriate measures, otherwise this won't contribute that much to the peace program we have been implementing. As you know, Zairian President Mobutu is the mediator in this peace process, which we have initiated with UNITA elements. We don't understand very well how it is possible for Zaire, whose president is the mediator, to allow its territory to be used regularly for this type of action against the People's Republic of Angola. [end recording]

UNITA's Savimbi Details MPLA Mavinga Losses

MB1505064590 Johannesburg Domestic Service
in English 0500 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] movement in Angola has taken newsmen to the battlefield near Mavinga in southeast Angola to convince them of their victory over the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] forces.

UNITA leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi told an international news conference at Mavinga that the MPLA's plan to cut his movement's logistical links had failed when the government forces were dealt a decisive blow at the Lomba River and driven back 160 km. He described the fighting which had been raging in the area since December as the heaviest since 1976.

Dr. Savimbi said that 139 government troops have been killed in the most recent battle on 6 and 7 May and that 34 troops had been taken prisoner. More than 90 military vehicles were destroyed. Dr. Savimbi said he expected the talks between UNITA and the Angolan Government to begin within a few weeks. He said UNITA was ready to sign a peace agreement immediately.

Views Peace, Recognizing Luanda Rulers

MB1505155190 London BBC World Service in English
1309 GMT 15 May 90

[From the "24 Hours" program]

[Text] The latest fighting in Angola's long running civil war has produced conflicting claims of the outcome of the battle in the southeastern town of Mavinga.

The MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government of President Eduardo dos Santos says its major offensive against rebel UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] guerrillas

was a complete success. But, UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, says that his forces defeated government troops, inflicting heavy casualties.

Journalists who have been taken to Mavinga by UNITA say the town is now virtually deserted. The latest fighting came shortly after exploratory talks between the government and UNITA in Lisbon. UNITA's refusal to recognize the legality of the Luanda government remains a major sticking point.

The BBC's Julian Borger asked Mr. Savimbi why he refused to concede on this point:

[Begin recording] [Savimbi] There is no point of recognizing the legitimacy of the government in Luanda when we know that it gained power through force, and everybody knows that, the MPLA knows that. They have put up questions on the table several times, and we have rejected it; for the purpose, we accepted the state. There is a state there, and when you have a certain state, there is something which (?has a) state, and because after the agreement in Alvor, the colonial state has ended. But, from there to call for the recognition of a government which was never elected, according with the same accord, then UNITA will never do, and the MPLA is not in the position of forcing that on us. They know it.

The Cubans are leaving, and they are becoming tremendously weak, which means that they were kept in power by the Cubans and that means you have (?facts) against which you cannot wait.

[Borger] You have also said you are against the idea of forming a transitional government with the MPLA. Why?

[Savimbi] It's no longer important. I think we thought before that to have a transitional government with the MPLA maybe will help, but now we prefer to have the MPLA to run the show until we organize elections. What are we going to do?

After 15 years, things are so bad that we don't know where we are going to participate. I think maybe it will add more confusion. Let them carry on, then we have elections.

[Borger] And what will UNITA be doing in the meantime?

[Savimbi] Well, in the meantime, we are going to be in the country campaigning, so long as the Cubans, all of them, leave and so long as we reach a cease-fire.

[Borger] How long do you think it would take before elections could be held in Angola?

[Savimbi] We don't think that it will be longer than one year. And a cease-fire, we don't think that we need to wait longer than three, four months to have a cease-fire.

And when we have a cease-fire? We are a political party, we are an armed opposition, then we will have the right

to campaign in the country. In the meantime, the government of the MPLA can carry on the business of the country. [end recording]

Meets Press on Mavinga Victory

MB1505171590 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1545 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Pretoria's reform initiatives could help accelerate peace in Angola, considering South Africa's strong influence in southern Africa.

That is the view of Dr. Jonas Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], who invited members of the international media to visit the battleground at Mavinga, in southern Angola.

Dr. Savimbi says UNITA's massive victories over government forces in the past four months have brought a peaceful solution closer than ever:

[Begin video recording] [Correspondent Nico van Burick] In this beautiful but war-scarred country, the hope once again flared this week that peace could soon become a reality.

Following the heavy fighting of the last four months, the realization is increasingly taking hold that military action offers no solution to anyone. Dr. Savimbi told a Mavinga news conference that UNITA is prepared to sign a peace agreement immediately, despite the military victories it has achieved. He said political developments in South Africa can also work to Angola's advantage.

[Savimbi, in English] There is a positive element. South Africa is talking with the opposition, and I don't think that South Africa will advocate something good for their own and say something different towards Angola. We feel that the South Africans will tell the same things to MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola].

[Van Burick] The Mavinga offensive led to some of the heaviest fighting in the 15-year-old bush war, and signs of the fighting of the past four months are to be seen over a wide area. The offensive began in December, and after several battles in which the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] forces lost more than 1,000 men, the task force succeeded in entrenching itself 10 km northwest of Mavinga.

It is here that the final decisive battle, lasting 36 hours, took place last weekend. UNITA says 139 FAPLA soldiers were killed, 34 taken prisoner, and more than 90 military vehicles destroyed in this battle. Many damaged vehicles and a large amount of ammunition remained behind at the base when the approximately 10,000 FAPLA soldiers were forced to retreat to Cuito Cuanavale, 160 km further north.

In contrast to earlier MPLA claims that they were in control of Mavinga, all signs indicated that UNITA had

at all times been in control of the town and strategic airfield. This fact was also confirmed by captured FAPLA soldiers. [end recording]

Thanks United States for Help

MB1605132590 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 16 May 90 p 6

[By Ken Vernon]

[Text] Mavinga—UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi has publicly thanked the United States for helping the rebel organisation score a resounding victory against Angola government troops in the battle for Mavinga.

Dr. Savimbi was speaking to journalists at a forward command post at Mavinga after they had visited the scene of what he called "our most important battle since 1976".

He said it was the first time UNITA had had to fight major conventional battle without Pretoria's help.

Since December a 15,000-strong armoured column of Angolan government troops had managed to push to within 10 km of Mavinga and its strategically important airstrip, gateway to UNITA's bush capital at Jamba, 200 km further south.

According to UNITA, the column was harried to a halt shot of its target before being defeated in a 36-hour battle on May 6 and 7.

Dr. Savimbi thanked the United States for an "emergency" airlift of what became UNITA's secret weapon in the battle—106 mm recoilless rifles fitted to Land Rovers and Toyota Land Cruisers. He said these had been very effective against heavy armour.

The visit to the government column's forward base, where the final battle took place, revealed a scene of devastation over a 4 sq km area. The remains of tanks and trucks littered the base, which was dotted with the graves of government soldiers.

Graves of those killed in attacks before the final battle were marked with simple crosses adorned with remembrance lamps fashioned from ration tins by their comrades, while torn boots and battered helmets marked the final resting place of those buried afterwards by UNITA.

According to UNITA, 139 government troops died in the final battle and 95 tanks, trucks and armoured vehicles were destroyed.

In the 137 days during which the entire campaign lasted, UNITA says it killed, 1 062 government soldiers and destroyed 306 trucks and 319 tanks and armoured vehicles. UNITA did not list its own losses, sparking speculation that it suffered heavily in the battle.

UNITA Urges MPLA To Admit Mavinga Losses

*MB1605225090 (Clandestine) KUP in English
to Southern and Central Africa 1906 GMT 16 May 90*

[Communique issued by the UNITA Central Committee Political Bureau and FALA Supreme Command on 15 May in Jamba]

[Text] [no dateline as received] 1. The defeat of MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] troops-FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] must be accepted as a consummate fact. The victory has no other name just as a defeat. Nevertheless, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] is not arrogant with the triumph but congratulates itself for the unconfusable and indisputable victory.

2. UNITA has always searched for dialogue without preconditions aimed at getting peace, the ceasefire and the establishment of multiparty democracy in Angola. To this effect UNITA president and vice president have already left for the Republic of Zaire to consult the mediator Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko and the American Secretary of State Herman Cohen [name and title as received] on the Angolan peace process while the movement's secretary of foreign affairs Gen Tony da Costa Fernandes left for Portugal to present to the Portuguese authorities concrete and very flexible proposals on the negotiations process despite the FAPLA's devastating defeat in Mavinga.

3. It is not only ridiculous but it is also mean that the Luanda government again talks about the South African military support to UNITA when the same regime uses good offices of South African Republic to exchange messages with UNITA.

With peace in Angola, no-one will lose but every Angolan will be a winner. What UNITA wants is for FAPLA to accept their defeat at Mavinga and not to look for a scape-goat nor to attempt to launch more offensives because it has already been proved at Mavinga that military option is not for our beloved and martyred people.

4. Long live peace, long live multi-party democracy in Angola long live national reconciliation in Angola.

Jamba, May 15th 1990—Year of salvation of the country for the conquest of democracy.

Our country free or death, United we will win for Politiburo and Central Committee of UNITA

—Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi-president, army general,

Eng. Jeremias Kalandula Chitunda-vice president,

Gen. Miguel N'zau Puna-sec general,

Gen Tony da Costa Fernandes, secretary for foreign affairs, for FALA superior command

—Gen Arlindo Chenda Pena Ben Ben-chief of staff,

Gen Andrade Sassungu Santos-vice chief of staff,

Demostenes Chilingutila-chief of operations,

Gen Altino Bango Sapalalo "Bock"-sec for defence strategy and security,

Gen Peregrino Wambu Chindondo-chief of intelligence.

Botswana

Government Invites ANC's Mandela To Visit

*MB1405163290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1527 GMT 14 May 90*

[Text] Johannesburg May 14 SAPA—The Botswana Government has invited African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela to visit the country. Botswana's President Dr Quett Masire said on Monday.

SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] Radio news reported no date for the visit was given.

A national reception committee has been set up to liaise with the Botswana Government in preparation for the visit.

Madagascar

President's Reaction to May Coup Attempt Noted

*LD1605131690 Paris Domestic Service in French
0630 GMT 16 May 90*

[Excerpts] Here is a reaction from the Malagasy president following the attempted coup d'etat on 13 May. I remind you that a commando took over the national radio station and announced the fall of President Ratsiraka. Listen then to his reaction which was recorded exclusively for Radio France Internationale by our special correspondent, Bruno de la Palme:

[Begin Ratsiraka recording] They are people who are manipulated, manipulated but not by me, not by the authorities, if you please, since who benefits from the crime? You know, I mourn these innocent victims. Why such a desperate act? [passage indistinct] In real terms the country's growth exceeded four percent in 1989; it is going to exceed four percent in 1990. Investors are there knocking on the door. Why then should one despair now rather than in 1988 or 1985? [passage omitted] We are on the right path, but do we want to frighten foreigners with desperate acts like that, by unrest here, by unrest there? However, people are not mad: they can distinguish between appearances and basic problems. [end recording]

Reports 6 Killed in Coup Attempt

*AB1605103990 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT
16 May 90*

[Text] Antananarivo, May 16 (AFP)—Six people were killed and 44 injured Sunday in Madagascar when security forces crushed an abortive bid to overthrow President Didier Ratsiraka, the president himself revealed in a televised address. One policeman figured among the dead and the injured included three policemen, three gendarmes and three soldiers.

President Ratsiraka, speaking Tuesday night, did not elaborate on the circumstances in which the casualties occurred. But on Sunday, eyewitnesses spoke of three dead and several injured when security forces dispersed a crowd outside the state radio and television headquarters before overpowering rebels holed up inside.

The crowd, estimated at between 7,000 and 8,000, included several supporters of the 13-man commando which took over the radio station Sunday before going on the air to announce the president's overthrow. Witnesses said the casualties involved severe mutilation and could have been caused by hand grenades.

The 13 rebels, whose capture was shown on television Sunday night, took over the radio station armed with automatic rifles, hand guns and knives. They took eight employees hostage before announcing a coup on behalf of an unknown Republican Committee of Public Salvation. The rebels urged retired army chief of staff General Jean Rakotoharison to assume power but according to several witnesses, Gen Rakotoharison went to the radio building and told the crowd he did not want the job.

The coup attempt was condemned Tuesday by political parties belonging to the pro-government National Front for the Defence of the Revolution and by supporters of President Ratsiraka's Malagasy Revolutionary Vanguard party (AREMA).

The opposition said the commando had used violence because no alternative outlet for criticism was available. Manandafy Rakotonirina, the president's main rival, and a former leftist turned liberal, said he had "nothing to do" with the coup bid.

Mr. Manandafy and the leader of the Christian-Democratic Party (MDC) Jean-Jacques Rakotoniana said the incident demonstrated the difficulties now facing Madagascar, one of the world's most impoverished nations.

President Views Relations With South Africa

*LD1605192490 Paris International Service
in French 1230 GMT 16 May 90*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Madagascar—In an interview with President Ratsiraka, the first since the serious incidents of last Sunday, the Malagasy president asserted that there were five civilian deaths and one soldier was

also killed. [passage omitted] You could have heard President Ratsiraka expressing himself on this subject on our station this morning and yesterday evening, but he also spoke to our special correspondent Bruno de la Palme about the question of reestablishing relations—for the time being only commercial ones—with South Africa, a decision announced a few weeks ago and about which he explains for the first time on a foreign station:

[Begin Ratsiraka recording] We have fought for years for things to change in South Africa. We have hailed the beginning of change in South Africa and the author of this change is Frederik de Klerk, it is obvious. This change must be encouraged; Frederik de Klerk must be encouraged to take this process to its conclusion, which should be the abolition of the only existing system of apartheid.

The South Africans have contacted us several times. We have set a certain number of conditions. Three of the five conditions have been fulfilled and so we have decided to have contacts with them and I have sent special envoys, messengers, to see Mr. de Klerk. At the same time I sent my foreign minister to see Oliver Tambo in London. I am making contact with both at the same time, because what is it that we are doing or that we want in the end? It is to help South Africa, to help the entire community—black, white, colored—all the citizens of that country to be able to live in peace at last.

I really cannot see why I should turn up my nose right at the moment when the ANC [African National Congress] and the Communist Party etc are talking with De Klerk—I do not see why I should be more Catholic than the Pope, why I should keep a distance from this process which concerns us geographically. And I think that quite naturally if South Africa is also carrying out a policy based on its geography then of necessity we are going to meet somewhere. They are going to invest here. There will be exchanges, first of all in the field of air transportation, sea transportation, there will also be exchanges in the commercial field, there will be tourism. [end recording]

[Announcer] Those were exclusive comments by the Malagasy president on our station.

*** Press Reports of Plague Cited as Media Campaign**

*90AF0087A Port Louis WEEK-END in French
18 Mar 90 pp 39-40*

[Text] "Exaggerated reports of the existence of plague in Madagascar are part of a media campaign to destabilize countries of the region and regional cooperation." That was how the Malagasy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Jean Bemananjara, curtly summed up the situation to WEEK-END Thursday when questioned about the resurgence of the disease in the Big Isle. "There is rabies in France, and many cases of AIDS in the United States—do people no longer go to those countries?" wondered the Malagasy minister, who felt it important

to emphasize that plague is a curable disease. He then went on to say that, contrary to rumors being bandied about, the Third Island Games will positively be held in Madagascar this year.

On the question of Mauritian investments in Madagascar, Mr Bemananjara said the position of his country was clear, namely, that all investors are welcome provided they respect "the domestic legal framework and the Malagasy personality." As for Mauritius, he said, Madagascar goes by the clear public statements of the Mauritian prime minister, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, who says that Mauritians will be encouraged to invest in Madagascar.

Asked to comment on plans for a regional airline, Mr Bemananjara told WEEK-END that he was not overly worried, as any project aimed at competing with existing national lines or any other agreement would certainly run up against the "region's stone wall." The minister said he understood Mauritian fears about the implementation of such a plan.

Mr Bemananjara, acting president of the Indian Ocean Commission [IOC], announced that a ministerial conference would be held next 10 and 11 April in Antananarivo. He said the summit was delayed by elections held recently in one of the member states, the Comoros. One of the big IOC events will be the trade show which will be organized in Madagascar next September. After the ministers' meeting next month, the IOC presidency will revert to Mauritius.

Finally, Mr Bemananjara said that President Ratsiraka had been very impressed by his visit to Mauritius at the beginning of the week, his first to that country. With the same insularity and the same mix of races, the Malagasy president, according to the minister, was struck by the harmony in our country.

Mauritius

* Controversial Opening to Madagascar 'Profitable'

90AF0109A London AFRICA CONFIDENTIAL
in English 23 Mar 90 pp 2, 3

[Text] Mauritius, the ambitious Indian Ocean tiger, is consolidating its regional stronghold. After Seychelles, the latest target is Madagascar, where Mauritian businesses are investing in the new industrial free zone and export services zone.

Both the Mauritius Labour Party (MLP), the second party in the government coalition, and some local manufacturers, have reservations about a policy that is spearheaded by three of the country's leading politicians: Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth, Vice-Premier and Finance Minister Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, and the Secretary General of the Mouvement militant mauricien (MMM), Paul Berenger. Their partners in this process

are the biggest names in the industrial and service sectors and, of course, Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka.

Disagreements have caused strain in the ruling coalition of the Mouvement socialiste militant (MSM) and the Labour Party [LP]. The LP Minister of Industry and Industrial Technology, Clarel Malherbe, warned in late February against the opening to Madagascar. The local press pictured a ministerial conflict between Lutchmeenaraidoo and Malherbe. It all died down when the prime minister gave his support to his finance minister. But the clash may mark the start of real problems between the coalition partners.

Industrialists such as Ariff Currimjee of the powerful Bonair group lead criticism from the manufacturers' side. They have the support of the new president of the Mauritius Export Processing Zone Association (MEPZA), Marday Venkatasamy. They fear Madagascar does not offer serious guarantees against nationalisation, and is both poor and politically unstable. They also fear it might supplant Mauritius as the region's leading exporter and attract overseas companies away from Mauritius.

But at present, this view does not prevail. Ratsiraka's visit to Port Louis as official guest at the 22nd independence anniversary on 12 March sealed the bid of those supporting investment in Madagascar. On the foreign policy front, both states are conscious of pressure from the ex-colonial powers and the challenges posed by the single European market and changes in South Africa and eastern Europe.

To counter Mauritian anxieties, Ratsiraka announced Madagascar would not nationalise a 'brother country's investments.' But he also noted that his government reserved the right to check the creditworthiness of prospective investors—officially, 'to prevent the laundering of drug money' as had happened in 'some places.' This was understood as a direct reference to Mauritius. Permission to invest would depend on these investigations, he said.

The opening to Madagascar confirms rumours of a working agreement between the MMM and the Mouvement socialiste mauricien (MSM). This is believed to cover not only the Madagascar investment programme but also the Indian Ocean heads of state meeting (due in Mauritius later this year) and the South African question. Berenger has played the role of roving ambassador in boosting cooperation with Seychelles in 1989 and with Madagascar in 1990. The Labour Party is being left out in the cold.

Mauritius's impressive economic progress in the 1980s, which makes it a World Bank-International Monetary Fund success story, has propelled it to the regional forefront (AC Vol 30 No 15). It is the only African state contracting World Bank loans on purely non-concessional terms. Yet it also faces serious obstacles due to an overheated industrial Export Processing Zone (EPZ). A closer look shows the Zone has reached its

optimum, with overheads rapidly increasing and companies unable to fulfil orders. Last year, it supplied only 30 percent of its Canadian orders. A similar situation prevails for the United States. This means a loss of credibility, especially on the textile front, and significant financial shortfalls: 1989 EPZ exports totalled 9,100 million Rupees instead of the expected Rs. 9,700 mn.

Production is the biggest problem. A chronic labour shortage leads to decreased productivity and increased costs. Recent interest rate increases have also hit hard. In a bid to reduce inflation (16 percent in 1989, now 13 percent) and restrain galloping imports of Rs. 20,000 mn last year, the interest rate on loans, overdrafts and letters of credit is now 19-21 percent. These factors are making Mauritius an expensive producer. This could be fatal in the long run, since the island is also slowly moving from low-tech/low-wage to high-tech/high-wage production. This makes it more open to market vagaries and changes of U.S. and European fashion.

The modernisation of equipment, leading to more capital-intensive industry, means Mauritius should start producing higher-quality products. This inevitably leads to a decline of the low-tech markets and demands more energy in the pursuit of new ones for the upgraded products. So Mauritius is pricing itself out of the world market for cheap goods, while competition from the new generation of labour-intensive Asian tigers, such as Guangdong in China, North Korea, Malaysia, Dubai, and Thailand, makes things harder for Mauritius, which is reputed to have overtaken Taiwan as the fourth of the earlier generation of tigers.

Madagascar's sudden decision to open its doors to foreign investment was therefore a great bonus for Mauritius, which discovered an apparent answer to its problems right on its own doorstep. The Port Louis government realised Madagascar, with its untapped resources, provided the perfect opening to enable Mauritius' low-tech, labour-intensive industries to keep their competitive edge.

Madagascar is now offering most guarantees and facilities investors require. Ratsiraka has called for multi-party democracy and greater press freedom and is revitalising key areas of production, including sugar, coffee, fisheries, tanneries, agro-industry, cotton and pharmaceuticals.

Three years ago, Madagascar signed for a structural adjustment loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and is getting World Bank support. Banks and other parastatals are being privatised. Madagascar has other basic attributes considered necessary for such investment: an industrial EPZ with abundant, cheap and adaptable labour. An unskilled Malagasy EPZ worker receives U.S.\$25 monthly, a skilled one \$90, half the Mauritian averages.

Mauritian Manufacturers Are Turning Their Eyes to Madagascar

Major advantages are the recently amended investment code and the passing of the EPZ act. The new code is based on that applied in Mauritius in the late 1970s. It offers exemption from customs duties and from taxes on raw materials imports, and 5-10 year corporate tax holidays. The main disincentive to investment is lack of infrastructure. But Mauritians are building their own in Tamatave. Knitwear giant Floreal is constructing its own EPZ unit. Mauritians have also shown they are ready to pay \$16 a minute for telecommunications to Mauritius. Madagascar's business community speaks both French and English, but low literacy rates among workers may cause problems.

Mauritian firms are queuing up to invest in Madagascar. Floreal Madagascar is already operating with 700 workers. The 100 percent Mauritian-owned Beachcomber Hotels group is building a 200-room deluxe hotel, the Royal Tana. Paints manufacturer Mauvillac is prospecting the market, as are the Mauritius Chemical Fertiliser Industry, the computer, engineering and agricultural conglomerate Ireland Blyth and the agro-industrial group, Foods and Allied Industry. The now-privatised State Commercial Bank (Mauritius) will open a branch in Antananarivo in a joint venture with Madagascar's Bankin'ny Indostria (BNI).

The Port Louis government believes that, if Mauritius is to grow as a regional financial centre, then government must promote and support offshore investment in Madagascar. Ratsiraka's visit led Premier Jugnauth to state his strong belief in regional cooperation between Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles, 'without a big brother.' This is an allusion to France's Reunion-based activities, seen as destabilising (AC Vol 30 No 23). A recent conciliatory gesture from Reunion in the form of an offer of Mauritian participation in the new Indian Ocean airline has been turned down by Port Louis. Negotiations, however, are still continuing. Economically, Mauritius hopes that by producing in Madagascar, it will stave off demands by foreign investors for substantial imports of workers, and also be able to release many of its EPZ workers for training as badly-needed white-collar employees. In the longer term, it hopes to reap the financial harvest expected from offshore investment.

Mozambique

Mocumbi Reiterates Choice of Malawi as Talks Venue

*LD1005102190 Lisbon International Service
in Portuguese 0900 GMT 10 May 90*

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Mozambican Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi is in Lisbon in transit to London. He spoke to the press at the airport. The peace process in

Mozambique was an obligatory topic. Mocumbi highlighted Portugal's role in the entire Mozambican peace process:

[Begin Mocumbi recording] Bearing in mind the level of relations between Mozambique and Portugal and Portugal's interest in developments in the Mozambican peace process, it is very natural that I should exchange information on the current state of this process. [end recording]

[Announcer] Mocumbi also stressed that the Maputo government prefers Malawi as the venue for direct talks with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] and explained why.

[Begin Mocumbi recording] The Government of Mozambique has indicated Malawi as the ideal venue for direct talks between the Mozambican Government and Renamo. The reasons put forward for this decision are still valid today: It is very close to Mozambique—the country and the government; Malawi is interested in seeing peace established in Mozambique; and for contacts between the delegations and the central government it is the ideal place, easy to hold meetings from Mozambique to Malawi. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Famine in Mozambique was another topic discussed. According to the Mozambican foreign minister the country needs \$20-30 million to save its people from starvation. [passage omitted]

Chissano Appoints Deputy Defense Ministers, Others

MB1505175990 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1730 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The head of state has issued a presidential decree appointing Lieutenant General Antonio Hama Thai as deputy national defense minister, in addition to his post as chief of general staff of the Mozambique Armed Forces.

The president of the Republic has also appointed Major General Eduardo da Silva Nihia as deputy national defense minister.

In other decrees, the president of the Republic appointed Paulo Zucula as deputy agriculture minister, Agostinho Salvador Monjane as deputy construction and water minister, and Salome Moiane as deputy foreign affairs minister.

*** Peace, Democracy Movement Launched in Lisbon**

90AF0074A Lisbon O DIABO in Portuguese
10 Apr 90 p 13

[Text] The "gentle lamb," which is how Joaquim Alberto Chissano described himself in comparison with the radical Marcelino dos Santos in 1986, has arrived in Lisbon.

And while the Mozambican Government says it is preparing for peace talks with Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] at a hotel in the capital, the Movement for Peace and Democracy in Mozambique has issued its manifesto.

In that document, the movement says it is essential "to create the conditions for a genuine democratization of Mozambican life, something which involves respect for human rights, the recognition of pluralism, and the acceptance of free elections and universal suffrage."

On 4 April, the same day on which Armando Guebusa, the Mozambican minister of transport and telecommunications, arrived in Lisbon to arrange the final details of President Joaquim Chissano's visit, a group of prominent figures in national political life was launching the Movement for Peace and Democracy in Mozambique at the Altis Hotel.

Their number included Antonio Rebelo de Sousa, Rui Oliveira e Costa, Maria Joao Sande Lemos, Jose Mota Veiga, and Suleiman Valy Mamede.

Democratic Takeoff

The objective of that movement, which is "independent of any politicoideological options," is to bring peace to Mozambican political life so that the country can move more quickly along the road to development and democracy.

Although the possibility that Lisbon will be the site chosen for peace talks with the Renamo rebels is not being ruled out, the need to reinstitute "peace contacts" took Antonio Rebelo de Sousa to Mozambique's border with Malawi for a face-to-face interview with Afonso Dhlakama between 5 and 7 March.

Expressing considerable optimism as to the reactivation of the peace process without "preconditions," seeing that, as he said, "they are not even being demanded by Renamo," and provided that "forced integration with Frelimo" [Mozambique Liberation Front] is ruled out, Antonio Rebelo de Sousa said that the outcome of the recent elections in Zimbabwe would be "nonsense" if the regime moved in the direction of the single party. "All the instances of political opening-up on the African continent are pointing in the opposition direction," he said.

Incidentally, that also appears to be the opinion of Domingos Arouca, who was asked by the Mozambican Government to evaluate the draft revision of that country's Constitution. Arouca, who is the real "star" of the movement, with which he is connected only because of his desire to see peace in his country, has also said that he is "available" to work with either Frelimo or Renamo.

But he made the proper prior clarification: "I am not a militant in, nor do I have any present or future political commitment to, Renamo. I only want to facilitate a rapprochement between the parties in conflict."

In Antonio Rebelo de Sousa's opinion, the important thing is to go further. He wants something more than "simple political cohabitation" between Renamo and Frelimo. "A multiparty system, not just a two-party system," he said. Meanwhile, it is quite possible that the country chosen as the site of the talks will be Portugal, and when the visit to Lisbon ends this Thursday afternoon, we will know whether Mozambique's constitutional future has scored any gains on the road to democratic development or whether, on the contrary, the islands of totalitarianism and the single party will continue to exist on the African continent.

* Carlos Reis Denies Links to SNASP

90AF0074B Lisbon O DIABO in Portuguese
10 Apr 90 p 12

["Excerpts" from letter to O DIABO from Mozambican Carlos Reis; first paragraph is O DIABO introduction]

[Text] Mozambican Carlos Reis has sent us a letter in which he denies his participation in the Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] security structure, commonly known as SNASP [People's National Security Service]. Reis has been pointed to as one of the men who, outside Mozambique, are conducting a campaign of public attacks on Dlakham's movement. Here are some excerpts from that (long) letter.

As usual, Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] has been abusing the advantage given it by certain Portuguese media, in this case the newspaper O DIABO, to malign some of its most formidable opponents, going so far as to accuse them of cooperating with Frelimo, something which, as "the same Renamo" already knows, is one more malicious lie invented by Renamo itself in order to discredit and denigrate the image of those annoying rival politicians.

Dlakham knows that we have used our few resources (seeing that we do not have the same media advantages) simply to divulge what Renamo is, who its leader is, and what its ideals are, since we feel that the Mozambican people must be informed and warned about these wolves in sheep's clothing who are nostalgic for what used to be and heirs to the former PIDE [International and State Defense Police] and the former DGS [General Directorate of Security]. That is why the puppet General Dlakham wants to eliminate us, because we always dare to point an accusing finger at him. We know of women being raped, children being barbarously murdered, young women being mutilated and left without ears and breasts, buses being burned with defenseless civilians inside, and entire villages destroyed, plundered, and burned—all of it the work of men commanded by that "Christian" and bloodthirsty general, who has the gall to issue a scandalous and shameful denial on that subject. If necessary, we are in a position to provide names and produce witnesses to confirm all those things, something that Renamo cannot do because it has no proof.

Deplorably, Dlakham or somebody pretending to be him does not know much about current Mozambican reality, because the goose that lays golden eggs, which it used to be, no longer exists. The Mozambican rooster sang the song of freedom and democracy at the right time; now it remains only to harmonize the notes of that song so that together we can vigorously sing out the right tune of freedom, without hunger, war, pestilence, and, especially, without the odious apartheid which Renamo wants to establish.

We are at the disposal of anyone to explain the reasons for the colony's "Manifesto," which apparently stuck a very strong goad in Renamo's top structure. We are certain that only Frelimo is in a position and has the authority to find paths toward the correct solution to the Mozambican conflict, now that it has duly acknowledged its errors in government.

Signed: Carlos Reis

Editor's note: Carlos Reis says that he is not a member of Frelimo and that much less does he collaborate with SNASP. But the fact is that while we do not wish to enter into details concerning our sources of information, we must draw attention to one fact: Carlos Reis' positions are objectively supportive of Frelimo and its methods.

As for the question of the massacres, that is his opinion. Renamo has a different opinion. But we are not Renamo's prosecutors. We merely want to talk about Mozambique without seeing it from Maputo's "official" viewpoint, which Carlos Reis seems to accept and value highly.

Namibia

Nujoma: Country To Continue RSA Trade Links

MB1505113890 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1056 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Windhoek May 15 SAPA—Namibia would continue vital trade links with [the Republic of] South Africa [RSA] but at the same time promote efforts aimed at economic independence and self-sufficiency, President Sam Nujoma said in Windhoek on Tuesday [15 May].

"As a member of the United Nations we can of course not embrace apartheid," he said in a speech prepared for delivery at the opening of the first parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

"Therefore, much as we would like to have normal diplomatic relations with South Africa as a neighbour, we cannot as a matter of principle do so, until South Africa rids itself of apartheid.

"My government, however, welcomes and encourages the dialogue now taking place between the government of state president F.W. de Klerk and the ANC [African National Congress] of South Africa."

President Nujoma pledged that his government, in foreign policy, would play a constructive role to reduce tension in the world's trouble spots and to promote international cooperation and dialogue.

"Steps have been taken and, where they have not been taken yet, will be taken, to join international organisations through which this can be done."

Namibia, through its membership of the United Nations, the non-aligned movement, Organisation for African Unity and the Commonwealth would contribute its quota "however insignificant" to the promotion of world peace and security.

Urges Cooperation With Angola

*MB1205192790 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1903 GMT 12 May 90*

[Text] Ruacana May 12 SAPA—President Sam Nujoma of Namibia on Saturday [12 May] said it was the will of his government that peace should prevail in the country, reports SABC'S [South African Broadcasting Corporation] Africa news desk.

Speaking at Ruacana in northern Namibia, Mr Nujoma said it was the duty of each-Namibian to contribute to peace and stability.

He called on the people to report without delay elements who crossed the border from Angola with the intention of destabilising Namibia.

He also called for close co-operation between Namibia and Angola, because Angola had made an important contribution towards Namibia's independence.

On education and health issues, Mr Nujoma said the government would give priority to the construction of schools and hospitals and the extension of the water supply network.

The government would succeed in its goals if Namibians got involved in government projects through voluntary labour, Mr Nujoma said.

Notes Formulation of Investment Code

*MB1505113390 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1046 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] Windhoek, May 15, SAPA—The Namibian government's economic regeneration policy would emphasise the creation of employment opportunities with the help of local and international investors, President Sam Nujoma said in Windhoek on Tuesday [15 May].

"To make this partnership possible my government is committed to creating an environment favourable for investment," Mr. Nujoma said in his opening speech of the first parliament of the Republic of Namibia.

An investment code was presently being formulated with the assistance of United Nations experts to help provide an investment environment.

"If not addressed immediately, the problem that threatens to tear apart, not only the social fabric of our society, but also our already fragile democracy, is that of unemployment," he said.

Namibia had inherited a government administration which "in answer to the call of apartheid, provided for duplication of monumental proportions.

"This system created the situation whereby the already scarce human and material resources were overstretched."

Peace and reconciliation "have a high price tag" and, in keeping with the Namibian constitution, the majority of civil servants in the 11 ethnic administrations had to be retained, although not necessarily in the same positions or in the same structures or institutions.

But in keeping with internationally agreed constitutional principles for the country, Namibians who were excluded from the governing process had to be brought in.

"This will obviously entail a very huge wage bill for the government, but it is something which must be done in the name of peace and reconciliation."

Mr. Nujoma said the government was in the process of finalising the first budget of an independent Namibia, which will deal with the establishment of the new government, integrating the existing systems with new ministries in order to create one unified government administration.

The budget would address the development needs of Namibia such as unemployment, housing, education and the provision of water.

A UN-sponsored donors' conference to be held in New York on June 20 to June 21 would seek international funding for Namibian development programmes.

The president noted that the central support of the Namibian constitution was the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary with built in checks and balances.

"For the proper development of our country there must be continuous interaction between the three branches of state.

"All three branches must work in concert to defend and protect our fragile democracy."

Opens 1st Session of National Assembly

*MB1505201990 Windhoek Domestic Service
in Afrikaans 1900 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] President Sam Nujoma this afternoon officially opened the first session of the National Assembly.

Nujoma said democracy and development require continued cooperation between the various branches of

government. He said the budget for the creation of a united national administration is in its final stage.

Nujoma said most government officials from the former administration will be retained, although not necessarily in the same posts, structures, or institutions.

Defense Secretary Denies RSA Recruitment Drive

MB1505203290 Windhoek Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1900 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Permanent Secretary for Defense (Franz Kapofi) denied military personnel are being recruited in [the Republic of] South Africa [RSA].

He reacted to allegations that the Namibian Defense Force had launched a recruitment drive for senior officers in South Africa.

(Kapofi) said Namibia has enough experts to be able to form its own defense force.

Information Minister Views National Reconciliation

MB1005005390 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1557 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Windhoek May 9 SAPA—National reconciliation remained a central element of Namibian Government policy, but at the same time the authorities had to ensure that socio-economic imbalances were redressed, the minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Hidipo Hamutenya, said in Windhoek.

"The government is running and governing the country to provide both the physical and socio-economic security for every Namibian and to defend the rights of all citizens," Mr Hamutenya said in a statement issued on Wednesday [9 May].

"The policy of national reconciliation is necessary to achieve these objectives."

Namibia's constitution enjoined the government to honour existing appointments in the civil service, and to balance the service by bringing in citizens, particularly blacks and women, who had been excluded previously.

"This means that just as the government cannot carry out wholesale dismissals of those who have been working for previous administrations, it can also not accept stone-walling or obstructionist tactics by those who, by virtue of appointment to positions of authority by previous regimes, are now occupying key positions in the agencies of the state," he said.

"The obstructionist activities are being observed in certain quarters of the civil service and they are creating frustration among those sections of the population who have worked for change.

"But the government remains convinced that the pursuit of the policy of national reconciliation is necessary for peace, stability and fair play for all Namibians."

Government To Consider Adopting New Time Zone

MB1005010290 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1157 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Windhoek May 9 SAPA—The Namibian Government would give consideration to establishing a new geographic time zone for the country, Prime Minister Hage Geingob said in Windhoek on Wednesday [9 May].

The issue, however, was not urgent as the cabinet had to deal with other affairs of state which were of greater urgency, Mr Geingob told SAPA.

The question of introducing a suitable time zone for Namibia has been the topic of considerable debate, particularly since the country became independent from South Africa on March 21.

Namibians set their watches according to South African standard time [SAST], based on the 30th longitude which runs through Natal on the east coast of southern Africa.

Proponents of a different time zone argue that Namibia—on the Atlantic coast—should geographically take its time from the 15th longitude which cuts through Namibia west of Windhoek.

The effect will be that Namibia's time is one hour ahead of GMT and one hour behind SAST, synchronising Namibia's clock with Angola and a large part of Western Europe, including West Germany.

Parents of school-going children say they will heartily welcome such a move, as pupils have to risk pitch dark roads in winter to get to school on time.

Opponents to a time change say that if Namibia's clock is put back one hour, they will have less daylight time left after office hours in the afternoon.

More than half Namibia is situated north of the Tropic of Capricorn, including the most populous areas near the border with Angola.

16 May Press Review on Current Problems, Issues

MB1605122290

[Editorial Report]

DIE REPUBLIKEIN

Information Minister's Credibility May Become Suspect—"No one would want Information Minister Hidipo Hamutenya's credibility to become suspect," remarks Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans on 10 May in its page 4 editorial. But then he should "avoid the sort

of statements" that "presently there is no chaos in the north of the country, there is no fault with the law and order, and matters are under control—this is more or less the purport of the minister's reaction to newspaper reports about intolerable conditions there." The Ovambo people "know precisely what they are experiencing daily," and they will "judge whether he is right or whether he is actually trying to talk his way out of ugly things."

17 May Press Review

MB1705124590

[Editorial Report]

THE NAMIBIAN

Situation in North Cause for Concern—"The situation in the far north is a matter for concern," writes Gwen Lister in her "Political Perspective" column on page 6 of the Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN in English on 11 May. "But if a joint effort is undertaken, I believe that SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and the DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance] can largely solve the situation. Let us not forget that the situation in the far north has never been stable. The South Africans actively promoted, as far as they possibly could, disunity in that area. The people have known no peace." "The highest priority, in my view, is to get back the guns—from all quarters. If SWAPO and the DTA for instance could make a joint, high-level trip to the north to call for restraint and go from village to village calling on people to hand in their weapons, the situation may be saved. It is obvious that at this point in time, the police cannot achieve this." "If national reconciliation is to succeed, it must be seen to come about in the north."

TIMES OF NAMIBIA

Education System Needs Improvement—"The wide-ranging and intensive project announced by the Ministry of Education to avert the disastrous examination results of previous years needs the whole-hearted support of every citizen of this country who is concerned with the education of our children," declares the Windhoek TIMES OF NAMIBIA in English on 14 May in a page 2 editorial. "There lies a difficult task ahead for the Ministry of Education to get the expected successful results at the end of the year. We can only express the hope that the Ministry of Education would never have to experience boycotts and other obstructionist tactics inspired by political motives. Officials who do not want to part with their apartheid past should seriously reconsider their role in an independent Namibia. These officials have only two choices: leave the country or give your contribution to uplift education." "Schools are no longer colonial institutions and they're also not targets for politically-frustrated extremists. It is now the people's property and it is the responsibility of every citizen to assist in the construction of a better education system."

'Unethical Journalism' Denied—"It is not clear on what grounds NAMIBIA TODAY, the SWAPO propaganda newspaper, is accusing the TIMES OF NAMIBIA of 'unethical journalism,'" says the TIMES OF NAMIBIA in a second editorial on page 2. "Refrain from making remarks and statements on journalism ethics if you yourself can't live up to the standards. The debate on journalism ethics should be left for the journalists of Namibia who are in a better position to control their discipline. Politicians and their servants should stick to their work—fabricating propaganda."

THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER

Afrikaans 'Indispensible' Language—"The Government must not underestimate the value of all available avenues of communications in building a new Namibia. In this regard Afrikaans as a medium is indispensable. The Government needs to use every available avenue in furthering its aims in reaching ultimate goals. It also needs total cooperation from each and every Namibian citizen," observes the Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English on 11 May in a page 2 editorial. "Instead it is fast bringing a rift between the viewers and the NBC [Namibia Broadcasting Corporation] (Government)." "The vast majority of Namibians speak, read and write Afrikaans. The Government dare not do anything that could cause any degree of division. Already Namibians are organising an onslaught against the NBC concerning this matter."

Seychelles

* SPPF Deputy Secretary-General on Change

* Party Reform Urged

34000609A Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION
in English 26 Mar 90 p 1, 2

[Text] Party members and the population at large have been called upon to start reflecting on the reforms they think may be necessary, to ensure an even more democratic participation by all Seychellois in the development of their country.

The call was issued by Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) Deputy Secretary-General James Michel at Saturday's launching of six party zones and 23 party sections in the Anse aux Pins district.

"If there are certain changes or adjustments to be made, they will be done by the will of the people through reflection, debate, consultation and the vote," Mr Michel said.

"It is the people who decided when changes should be made," he said. "No individual or small group...have the right to tell the Seychellois people what they should do."

"No country has the right to dictate our political system."

The choice was the people's and the people's alone, Mr Michel stressed.

"It is this consultation with the people which constitutes our democracy," he said.

Mr Michel recalled how the country's constitution, for example, was adopted in 1979 through consultations with the people, taking into consideration their ideas and proposals.

The population subsequently elected Mr Albert Rene President by a massive majority, signalling their approval of the type of government proposed in the constitution.

Mr Rene equally massive mandates in the 1984 and 1989 presidential elections reaffirmed that choice, Mr Michel said.

"This is what we call democracy in Seychelles," he said. "We reflect together and decide together what we want to do."

Noting that this result in unity of purpose and of action, Mr Michel said: "For Seychelles, it is democracy in unity which is important."

But although this had brought about immense progress for all in such a short period, it did not mean everything was perfect.

"It does not mean that we have not made mistakes," Mr Michel said.

"It is for this reason that together with the people, we need to see where our weaknesses are and find ways to correct our mistakes and improve our system..."

Taking the issue of branch elections as an example, Mr Michel said maybe the time had come to reintroduce the election of branch officials so as to further develop and consolidate democracy in Seychelles and encourage more participation on the political and socio-economic life of the country.

If so, should the election be done as in the past by branch members only or should more people be allowed to vote, he asked. How many officials should be elected, who should elect them, and should the relationship between members of the People's Assembly (Who are already elected in nationwide elections by the people at large) and the branch remain the same or change, were the questions to be answered.

Mr Michel suggested that the SPPF branches should organised meetings to allow everyone in the districts, including non-party members, to reflect on these issues.

"The SPPF should run the debate, but allow anyone who wishes to say something to do so and (it should) take note of all opinions expressed.

"The people should be frank in this debate so that the (SPPF) Congress will later be able to decide what

renewal the people—(party) members and non-members—would like to see in the SPPF and in the country," he said.

Perhaps debates in the branches had in the past been restricted to party members because they tended to deal with party matters, he continued.

However, with the change for the better (in the country) and more education and knowledge in the Seychellois society, perhaps it is time to open branch debates more to the people as a whole so as to obtain more contributions, Mr Michel said.

"It is time to engage ourselves in serious reflection at a national level to see what lies ahead and where we must adjust things to face the future," he said.

"It has to be a reflection by all Seychellois," he added.

* More 'Transparency' Needed

34000609B Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION
in English 26 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] the Seychelles People's Progressive Front (SPPF) and the government must become more "transparent" to enable the people to see what is going on and judge for themselves, party Deputy Secretary-General James Michel said on Saturday.

Launching the Anse aux Pins branch's party sections at a meeting at the Creole Institute, Mr Michel stressed that such openness would encourage the population to participate better in decision-making and contribute even more to national development, while allowing the country to see more clearly where it was going wrong and thus take corrective action.

For the people to be able to participate more in running and further building up the country, they not only had to be more aware of what was happening in the country, but also of why these things were happening the way they were, he said.

Thus "party and government officials must, and should, be frank and give the people the necessary information for them to be able to discuss freely and use the established structures to say what they think and give their opinions and suggestions," Mr Michel said.

"With more transparency, we will see better when corruption develops, we will detect sabotage and wastage more effectively, and we will be able to take action more quickly," he said.

"Even more importantly, with more transparency the people will be more interested in contributing to national development and defending what they have worked to gain.

"They will understand better the difficulties and constraints (the country faces) and they will be ready to make sacrifices in the national interest when necessary."

Mr Michel called on party and government leaders and officials to use the media more to explain what was happening in the country.

While it was good to know what was happening abroad, it was more important for the people to know the decisions being taken in their own country and the reasons for these.

"This is indispensable for the people's participation in national development," Mr Michel said. "It is also indispensable for the party to know the people's opinion, their aspirations, what they would like to see happen," he added.

*** Meeting With CCP Officials Strengthens Ties**

34000631A Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION
in English 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Political ties between Seychelles and China are as strong as ever, SPPF (Seychelles People's Progressive Front) Secretary for External Relations Ralph Adam said yesterday after party talks in Beijing.

Speaking after his return on Wednesday from a 10-day visit to China, Mr Adam told reporters he met Mr Song Ping, one of the country's six most important leaders, as well as other officials of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

He also met several Seychelles who are studying in China and on his way back visited a Singapore hospital which treats Seychelles heart patients.

Mr Adam was accompanied by Mr Patrick Berlouis, a member of the SPPF Central Committee, and Mr Wilhem Beniface, the social affairs officer on the Anse Royale branch committee.

Describing his visit as "very pleasant," Mr Adam said it had helped further strengthen the ties of friendship that exist between the two countries.

He said his talks with Mr Song, a member of the Standing Committee of the CCP Politburo, focussed on "matters of common interest."

The SPPF delegation and CCP officials together analysed the existing situation of the two parties, "exchanging information on what is going on in each party, what has been accomplished, and plans regarding reforms for the betterment of both parties," Mr Adam said.

Other officials he met with included Mr Jiang Guanghua, the deputy head of the International Liaison Department of the CCP Central Committee, who led the first Chinese party delegation to visit Seychelles in 1985.

Mr Adam also met with six of the eight Seychelles students in Beijing.

He said he was pleased to learn they were satisfied with their stay there.

Noting that during the past few years he had the chance to visit various countries where Seychelles students were studying, Mr Adam said the Seychelles in China were the first students abroad "who had not complaints to make."

On his way back Mr Adam, who is also Minister of Health, visited the Singapore General Hospital where Seychelles patients, especially children, have been treated for heart diseases.

Mr Adam met with consultants, doctors, and even nurses who had treated Seychelles patients.

"That contact was very important," he said, "especially as they reconfirmed their willingness to continue helping us in this field."

*** Air Agreement Signed With Yugoslavia**

34000631B Victoria SEYCHELLES NATION
in English 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Seychelles and Yugoslavia yesterday signed an agreement to provide landing rights to each other's airlines in their respective countries.

The signing in Victoria formalised existing operations in which Adria Airways from Yugoslavia is, in a joint venture with Air Seychelles, already providing an important airlink between the two countries.

The agreement was signed at Independence House by tourism and transport principal secretary Maurice Loustau-Lalanne and the new Yugoslav ambassador Peter Tos.

Mr Lalanne said Seychelles was pleased Adria Airways stepped in "almost immediately" after Air Seychelles halted its Athens flight last August, thus continuing the tourism impetus and helping the country's growth.

Besides Adria, which is privately-owned, Yugoslavia has another national airlines (JAT), which includes government participation. Mr Tos said airlines in Yugoslavia had "substantial" interest in cooperating with their Seychellois counterpart.

Yugoslavia would welcome further initiatives by the Seychelles Government, he said.

Also present at the ceremony were civil aviation director-general Freddy Karkaria and Air Seychelles executive chairman Conrad Benoiton.

Speaking to SEYCHELLES NATION later, Mr Karkaria said negotiations for the agreement started in December last year.

He said Adria Airways started flying to Seychelles the same month, using a wide-bodied Airbus A320 with 150 seats.

The 12-hour journey starts in Ljubljana in Yugoslavia, stopping in Athens, Greece, and Djibouti before touching down every Thursday morning at Seychelles International Airport.

The flight returns to Yugoslavia in the evening.

Mr Benoiton said the airlink between the two countries was helping the tourism industry in Seychelles as the joint-venture flight was providing access to tourism from Greece, Austria, Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Turkey.

"It is grossly beneficial to Air Seychelles," he said, adding that it had so far flown 1,100 people to these islands.

The joint-venture would be for one year from December 1989, he added.

Swaziland

Minister Notes European Changes' Effects on Trade

MB0905081690 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 9 May 90 p 4

[By Gordon Mbuli]

[Text] Recent developments in Eastern Europe may generate new opportunities for trade with the West and this would seriously affect exports of countries Swaziland, the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism Senator Nkomeni Ntiwane has observed.

Senator Ntiwane said because of the changes that are currently taking place, Swaziland needs to work hard to protect her trade interests abroad.

He said, already, international marketing capability is being cited as a major obstacle to the development of Swaziland's foreign trade.

Senator Ntiwane was speaking yesterday morning in a hotel in Mbabane when he officially opened an export marketing training course.

The course, sponsored by the Canadian Executive Organization, is being attended by exporters in the country.

Senator Ntiwane observed that Swaziland has maintained a healthy growth in its economy in the recent past.

"Given the limited local market, this growth is made possible by the dynamism of the export sector. However, one should hasten to add that our export growth still depends heavily on the performance of our traditional export commodities, a situation that is not conducive to our balanced and sustainable growth."

Senator Ntiwane said that export commodities in Swaziland are very valuable overseas.

"I am very disturbed at seeing our timber being shipped to other countries when they should be processed locally and create more employment opportunities for our Swazis.

Senator Ntiwane said the European Economic Community (EEC), integrated programme poses its own challenges to exports from developing countries.

"Though its effects are not completely clear, one needs to watch the situation under constant vigilance.

"The developments in Eastern Europe may generate new opportunities for trade especially in Western Europe. To the extent they create competition for exports of development countries.

"We need to work to safeguard and protect our trade interests," Senator Ntiwane emphasised.

He said every effort should be made to take opportunities under the Lome Trade Preferences and general schemes preferences of United States of America, Canada, Japan, Australia and other countries.

Senator Ntiwane said opportunities under the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) provide considerable potential to expand regional trade.

"PTA is a very important and strong regional organisation for our region. We would like to see our regional organisations such as the PTA and SADCC [Southern African Development Coordination Conference] developed and strengthened."

The minister added that the international marketing capability has often been cited as a major obstacle to the development of Swaziland's foreign trade.

He said this is caused by:

- Inadequate knowledge about foreign markets, for instance with respect to prices, distribution channels and competition.
- Inadequate market planning and inability to draw up an appropriate marketing strategy.
- Inadequate knowledge about procedures for selection of agents overseas and about the procedures for drawing up agency agreements.
- Poor quality control and inability to adhere to agreed quality standards.
- Insufficient expertise in product adaption and development to meet requirements in foreign markets once a marketable product is developed, there is immense scope for creating new capacities.

Zambia

* MP Questions Continued State of Emergency

34000918A Lusaka THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Home Affairs Minister General Kingsley Chinkuli disclosed in Parliament that 684 people were detained

between January 1975 and October 1989 with 72 being under detention for over two years without appearing in courts of law.

Under the preservation of public security Act Chapter 106 Regulation 33(1), 106 people were brought before courts of law, 51 convicted and the remaining 55 acquitted and released.

The minister was replying to a question by Mr Wycliff Mwlinga, MP [Member of Parliament] for Mazabuka on behalf of Chikankata MP Mr Joshua Lumina.

A total of 543 were released variously after being picked up during clean-up operations aimed at persons involved in activities inimical to Zambia such as economic sabotage. Four died of natural causes.

Those released were freed after paying fines under the Act, filing successful habeas corpus and after a tribunal that reviews detentions periodically had recommended such release, Cde Chinkuli said.

The minister said from 1975 to 1989 Zambia faced the Mushala gang banditry an attempted coup in 1980 while illegal drug trafficking started in 1985.

Acts of economic sabotage occurred on the Copperbelt while an influx of aliens plundering mineral resources took place.

Despite positive developments in Southern Africa marked by the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and the independence of Namibia, time was not ripe for the state of emergency to be lifted.

Mr John Kalenga (Mwinilunga West) asked whether the real motive behind the state of emergency was to "torture" politicians of "opposite views" as was the case in South Africa where a secret security unit existed.

The minister said Zambia's 25 years of peace arose from the sustenance of the state of emergency and the country's position was different from South Africa's.

Mr Kalenga raised a point of order as to whether the minister was in order to claim that Zambia was a champion of human rights and that her peace arose from the state of emergency while trying to deny South Africa the state of emergency that also brought her peace.

The Speaker Mr Fwanya Mulikita said the minister was in order to explain his position as there was worry in the minds of MPs and the public that Zambia was linking her policies with South Africa's internal affairs.

Mr Lightwell Sibale (Mbala) asked of the remaining 31 persons not covered in the minister's answer, to which Cde Chinkuli said they were released and had paid fines as their offences fell elsewhere.

"How does Zambia become respectable in calling for South Africa to remove her state of emergency when Zambia has had it for 25 years?" Mr Roger Sakuhuka (Zambezi West) asked.

Cde Chinkuli replied that the existence of the apartheid regime and its support of elements causing disharmony in Zambia placed the nation in that position.

* Multi-Party Advocates Urged To Work in System

34000917D Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
30 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Advocates of multi-party system of government should come out in the open and advise the leadership on the weaknesses of the present principles to contribute effectively in reviving the ailing economy.

Elections and Publicity Committee chairman Cde Joseph Mutale yesterday in Lusaka scoffed at the advocates of a multi-party system and said democratic principles offered a lot of opportunities for criticism that could be used to build the country.

"They should accept the voice of the majority. If they think we need to change the constitution to accommodate the new stages, then they should use the platform at all levels of the society," Cde Mutale said.

One-party democracy offered a forum at all levels of society and instead of copying ideas from other countries, advocates should change and contribute to making the country's economy pick-up.

ZCTU [Zambia Congress of Trade Unions] in its submission to the fifth National Convention held recently said the fundamental problem with one-party system was that it denies the majority of the people a say in the affairs of the country.

But yesterday Cde Mutale said all sectors of society were represented from the ward to the Central Committee level.

During the multi-party system in Zambia, the country experienced inter-party rivalries and the publicity chief said: "We do not want to get back to those bad days."

"They can go back to multi-party system minus me because I saw its work and the number of people who lost their lives in Mufulira," he said.

During the deliberations at the last National Convention, the debate on a multi-party system was likely to take centre-stage but President Kaunda ruled out the possibilities which he termed "stone age barbarisms."

The President and Secretary of State for Defence and Security Cde Alex Shapi had openly said effectiveness of the one-party system would be reviewed.

*** No Government Recognition of Breakaway Union**

34000918B Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
14 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The Government will not recognise the recently formed professional association for Copperbelt-based health workers because the grouping had no mandate to negotiate for conditions of service.

Minister of Labour, Social Development and Culture Cde Lavu Mulimba said in Lusaka yesterday the registrar of associations was under instructions to nullify the Medical, Paramedic and Nurses Association (MPNA).

Nurses, paramedical and other medical officers have broken away from the Civil Servants Union of Zambia [CSUZ] for alleged lack of proper representation.

Cde Mulimba has however directed the CSUZ and the professional association to resolve the dispute without delay saying: "I am sure they are capable of doing so."

He challenged the MPNA or any other associations saying the CSUZ was not doing enough for them to contest union posts and take over leadership.

The Government last year banned or threatened to de-register any association which purported to work as a trade union.

"They should not even be given temporal registration papers...and the office of the registrar of associations will ensure the officers are properly guided," the minister said.

There was a Cabinet committee chaired by Cde Mulimba to ensure no professional body operated as a union.

He reiterated Government stand on the associations' role of promoting professionalism and not of bargaining for conditions of service for their members.

Government ministries were willing to take advice from the associations on the advancement of professionalism, Cde Mulimba said.

The representatives of health workers drawn from Kitwe, Ndola, Luanshya, Chingola, Kalulushi and Mufu-lira have appealed to the Ministry of Finance to stop subscription deduction for the CSUZ.

And the Clinical Association of Zambia in Lusaka has supported the pull-out of the Copperbelt professional medical groups from the CSUZ.

National chairman Cde Edgar Munakeembe said yesterday his association will this week hold a general meeting to decide whether to join the recently formed Medical Paramedic and Nurses Association.

But Cde Munakeembe said medical personnel were for a long time being given "a raw deal" because the people that represented them did not fully understand their operations.

Meanwhile, CSUZ general secretary Cde Alec Chirwa said health workers who want to leave the union should do so individually and follow the laid down procedure.

"As far as we are concerned withdrawal is not valid until received from individuals and not as a petition."

*** Unions Want To Select for Central Committee**

34000918C Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
22 Mar 90 p 1

[Article by Hicks Sikazwe]

[Text] The Party and its Government should review the system of appointing labour leaders to the Central Committee by allowing unions to choose their own representatives, Mineworkers Union of Zambia (MUZ) chairman Cde Johnathan Simakuni said in Kitwe yesterday.

In his maiden interview with the *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* Cde Simakuni said authorities should offer places to the labour movement which through its machinery would select "emissaries" to the Central Committee.

"That is the only way anybody taken there would have the mandate of workers he is supposed to serve."

But if approached individually he would not accept a political post as it was very difficult for one to follow "two paths" at the same time.

He was supported by his general secretary Cde Kosta Sheng'amo that it was the feeling of the current team and the entire MUZ that serving in the Central Committee should be the choice of the workers.

On the multi-party system, he said the Livingstone gathering discussed the issue and it would be released later to the Press as part of the resolutions.

But other sources said MUZ had supported the call by the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to reintroduce the multi-party system.

Cde Simakuni was elected into the hot seat at the last MUZ elections in Livingstone after soundly defeating the former chairman and Central Committee Member Cde Timothy Walamba.

The new chairman pledged loyalty to MUZ members and appealed for support if the union was to achieve more especially in view of the world economy that has hit the workers hardest.

Among his major assignments is to achieve better things for the more than 50,000 members in the mining industry.

He admitted that because of the poor economy unions have difficulties in negotiating for better salaries and conditions of service.

He assured MUZ members that his team would foster a spirit of consultations from both ways and called for openness at any level "because we are their spokesmen."

Throughout his tenure, he would rely on team work hence the need for members to be cooperative.

He was confident his executive would work amicably with the ZCCM [Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines].

The new executive was set to streamline finances for MUZ and boost its coffers. He said the finances had improved after subscription was increased from K5 to one per cent of each member's monthly salary.

There was an exercise to overhaul the trouble-torn Mukuba farm where ZCCM has seconded a manager.

Asked how he felt when he was declared the winner, Cde Simakuni said "I became excited. I could not believe it."

A father of six and former policeman Cde Simakuni, 50, joined Luanshya division of ZCCM in 1969 as a winding engine driver.

He hit the union limelight in 1976 when he was appointed shop steward and rose through the ranks to serve as branch treasurer, sub-branch chairman, vice national chairman and finally national MUZ chairman.

*** Non-Party Members 'Should' Vote in Elections**

34000918D Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
16 Mar 90 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Yesterday marked the anxiously awaited deadline for the voters registration exercise for the forth-coming Party elections which had been extended from 2 March to 15 March.

In extending the registration period, which director of elections Cde Gabriel Phiri ascribed to apathy by the eligible populace, it was noted that a normal extension would have been for one week only and not two as it happened.

Since a whole array of hitches, problems and obstacles lay obstructively in the path of a possible smooth campaign for the registration exercise, it was deemed appropriate to add another week to the extension.

But while we appreciate and understand that key snags that caused the abysmally poor publicity which marked this year's campaign were a result of transport problems dogging the electoral commission, we must say some of the hitches were man-made and could have been avoided.

For one, while the argument that the evident apathy shown by the voters could have been driven by the

prevailing harsh economic climate bears substance, it is equally true that the bodies or organs entrusted with overseeing the administration as well as running of elections performed below par.

Why, for a start, was the campaign launched late when there are standing committees to do the job?

Zambians have come to be defined by their characteristic mature and responsible outlook towards stern issues such as elections in which they exercise their constitutional right of choosing leaders.

They would certainly have come out to duly execute their civic bidding in the section, branch and ward elections—as they have always done in presidential and parliamentary polls.

Away from that, it may now be opportune to urge the Party to consider allowing or opening Local Government polls to non-Party members.

This may be in appropriate keeping with the newly-evolving political mood in the country: remember that the pro-one party consensus exhibited by the National Convention gathering in Lusaka has largely preferred to only adjust the system rather than rock it.

There are several important lessons to be learnt from the just ended voters registration campaign.

Although from the figures on the voters' rolls picked up by yesterday it is clear the attitudes and perceptions, among other factors, of all those who had anything to do with the exercise have to change.

*** Katete Faces Starvation; Transportation Blamed**

34000917A Lusaka *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* in English
14 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] Villagers living in Katete's food deficient valley face starvation because roads to productive areas have become impassable, Katete district governor Cde George Kateka has revealed.

He said the most affected areas were Nalungwe, Chief-tainess Mwape and Senior Chief Lwembe's areas where villages are cut off from the rest of the district.

Although authorities have been trying to rehabilitate the roads, the task has been made difficult because of lack of proper equipment. This, he said, would affect the haulage of maize. A harvest of more than half a million bags is expected.

Cde Kateka also expressed concern at the three-week dry spell the country has experienced. He said maize which was planted late was likely to wither.

He complained that the movement of grain last season was slow because transporters shunned the area in preference to far flung places from where they could earn more money.

Petauke district union has appealed to ZCF [expansion unknown] to help with the haulage as this year's crop will need the space which is still being occupied by last year's crop.

And Namwala is facing a major communication breakdown because of the bad state of the roads and the poor telephone system, area MP [Member of Parliament] and Minister of State for Agriculture Cde Biggie Nkumbula said yesterday.

He said the main roads, the Mumbwa-Namwala and Choma-Namwala roads were in a very bad state and this was affecting the haulage of maize because transporters were shunning the area.

Cde Mkumbula also said the health facilities in the district were inadequate as the population has increased. Because of this, the residents have, with the assistance of the European Community micro projects built a maternity wing and X-Ray departments. The maternity wing was not yet ready.

He added that the Government should review producer prices not only of maize but of other crops like rice, cassava and groundnuts which were being sold to private buyers instead of established markets because they (private buyers) offered higher prices.

* Drought Threatens 8,000 With Starvation

34000917B Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English
30 Mar 90 p 9

[Text] About 8,000 people in Chieftainess Chiawa's area face starvation this year because of the drought.

Chieftainess Chiawa disclosed this in an exclusive interview in Lusaka yesterday.

She said the villagers had tried their best to cultivate and be self-sufficient but the rains have let them down."

She said if drought continues all the villagers in the area would reap nothing and there would be real starvation.

But if the rains fell even for a few days, some of the farmers might get a quarter of what they had initially expected.

"Every one in the area is affected by the drought," she said.

Earlier when the chieftainess made a courtesy call on the Member of the Central Committee for Lusaka Cde Bautis Kapulu, she appealed to the Government for assistance to avert starvation in her area.

The call for help was emphasised by Chief Muyombe, who is also MP [Member of Parliament] for Isoka and Minister of State for the department of chiefs. He said the villagers in the area had tilled their land extensively.

Chief Muyombe said the Government should do something for the people in the area to avert a crisis.

Cde Kapulu said the Government had declared Chief Chiawa's area and Luangwa as drought areas.

He said the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture was assessing the situation to see how they could help those who would be affected by the drought.

Four chiefs toured the Chiawa Masstock project and the Lusaka Province Cooperative Union. They included Chieftainess Chiawa, Chief Muyombe and Chief Bundabunda who is chairman of Lusaka Provincial Council for Chiefs.

Cde Kapulu appealed to the chiefs to allocate some land to the Government for development projects.

He also urged villagers to grow more food and sell the surplus to the cooperatives. The chiefs could make this possible by educating and encouraging their subjects to grow more.

Chief Chiawa was commended for having given some land to Masstock who were growing cotton.

* Drought Hits Southern, Western Provinces

34000917C Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English
30 Mar 90 p 9

[Article by Political and Diplomatic Correspondent]

[Excerpt] Drought seems to be stalking this region once again, with parts of Zambia, Angola and Namibia having reported crop shortfalls and famine deaths in the past few weeks.

While surveys by agricultural experts in the preliminary reports have indicated crops shortfalls due to delayed rains, late planting and an early dry spell and heat in the maize belt of Southern Province and other places, poor infrastructure in leading to productive areas has led to food deficiency in areas like Katete in Eastern Province.

The scenario has repeated itself in many parts of Western Province where inadequate rains coupled with late arrivals of inputs like fertiliser have exacerbated the low-yields syndrome.

However, the overall picture in the region appears gloomy. Early in March, it was reported that about one million civilians faced famine due to renewed fighting between MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] government troops and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] contingent under Dr Jonas Savimbi.

Although the aspect of a two-year drought hitting the southern province of Huila, considered the country's granary, was kept in the background by visitors, it is emerging as one of the contributing factors to starvation, which has so far claimed 600 lives on Caconda and Gambos. [passage omitted]

Zimbabwe

House Speaker Discusses Parliamentary Changes

MB1305104990 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1003 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Masvingo, May 13, SAPA—Zimbabwe parliament's Speaker of the House, Mr. Nolan Makombe, described on Saturday night the opening of the first session of the third parliament of Zimbabwe as a new era in the country's history, as it would witness the redistribution of land to the people, the ZIANA news agency reported on Sunday.

The shackles of the Lancaster House agreement fell away on the April 18, and this paved way for the government to redistribute land to the people who have been

patiently waiting for it for the past decade, Mr. Makombe said at a reception he hosted at Masvingo for MP's in Masvingo Province.

MP's should see in this session of parliament the introduction of innovative and progressive bills as well as a change in the parliamentary committee system, he said.

He said the new change of the parliamentary committee system would see the appointment of departmental committees to specifically examine the expenditure, administration and policies of government ministries.

Mr. Makombe added the new look parliament should also see the introduction of new dress for the presiding officers to replace the 17th century gowns which he said "have no relevance to present day Zimbabwe."

Benin**Prime Minister Said To Fear Coup Attempt**

AB1405195690 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 14 May 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Prime Minister Nicephore Soglo of Benin is not happy with the smooth ride in his efforts to cut the army down to size. For the last 17 years until this year, President Kerekou has ruled Benin with military support. But although he has now handed over the Defense Ministry to Mr. Soglo, it seems some soldiers have not been happy with the government's new policies. From Porto-Novo, Karim Munkanla reports:

[Begin Munkanla recording] Sources close to Benin's transitional government now say that Prime Minister Nicephore Soglo is more and more concerned about his personal security and safety. Mr Soglo's office is located just within walking distance from the Presidential Palace, which actually looks like a military camp. Automatic machineguns can be seen on the palace rooftop, and some of them are precisely aimed at Mr. Soglo's office. Troops of the Presidential Brigade stand guard there around the clock, using binoculars to scan the area. The prime minister is reported to be worried about the fact that he may represent an easy target should things go wrong.

Besides, divisions within Benin's army ranks are growing worse every day. There are those who are still loyal to President Kerekou and those who feel that the probing into illicit gains being currently carried out may mean the end of their military career. Under the previous Kerekou government, the military held important financial responsibilities, and some army officers are now suspected of embezzlement. Former party barons are also unofficially reported to be plotting a coup. Reliable sources say that a few weeks ago, Prime Minister Soglo summoned former Minister of Transport Martin Dohou Azonhiho to his office and warned him against the possible coup. Mr. Azonhiho, an army officer the size of an American football player, is believed to be a fierce opponent of political reforms here.

Mr. Soglo seems to be taking the necessary steps to beef up his personal security. Last week, he had a meeting with a U.S. Navy commander, almost behind closed doors. Even the prime minister's press attache was not allowed in the room, and this was enough to fuel speculations about Mr. Soglo's plans to call on Americans and Israelis to ensure his government's security. [end recording]

*** Premier Soglo Lays Out Tasks During Transition**

90AF0066A Cotonou LA GAZETTE DU GOLFE
(EDITION INTERNATIONALE) in French 1-15 Apr 90
pp 4-5

[Article by Andre-Marie Johnson]

[Text] Eleven months of transition—that seemed to be a long time at the conclusion of the National Conference. And now, in the face of the impressive list of urgent matters to be settled before the April 1991 deadline, the 11-month deadline prescribed by the Conference is getting to be short and constraining. While the prime minister says that he lost 5 kg when forming his transition government, it is greatly to be feared that, before he accomplishes his recovery mission, Mr Nicephore Soglo risks being given the first name of "Nicefaible" [weak Nice], as can already be heard here and there.

For the cleaning of the Augean stables that the prime minister recommended when addressing workers and their government party organs in Cotonou on Thursday, 22 March, will not be an easy task. You cannot wipe out 17 years of incompetence, slovenliness, and "PRPB" [People's Revolution Party of Benin] flaws in 11 months of governing. There are too many things to be done or redone and on this list of urgent matters, whether they are entered on it or not, the priorities are going to have to be targeted and implemented no matter what the cost may be, and this despite party siren songs or even the extent of their unpopularity as measured by opinion polls.

Also, what with one thing or another and subject to any constraints that might be imposed on it by a large-scale catastrophe, the transition government is going to have to tackle and find—even if only a good beginning for—solutions to half a dozen problems. At the top of the list we note the restructuring of the economy and our finances and the restoration of peace on the labor front.

Then come the study and resolution of problems associated with the National Education Ministry, reform of the administrative and territorial system, reexamination of the legal regulation of big business, cleansing of our Armed Forces organizational structures, and the drafting of an operational program for the national press.

End of Months of Fluctuation

"More 'Zinsouist' than he, you die." Loud applause. This is how former President Emile Derlin Zinsou introduced Mr Idelphonse Lemon to the large public audience that had come to follow the conference held last February at the Benin Sheraton Hotel by the UNDP [not further expanded], the former president's party. At the time no one—not even the person concerned—could have imagined that Mr Idelphonse Lemon would become minister of finance of a transition government a few weeks later.

Today, the facts are there, staring us in the face. And no matter what label he is tagged with by his supporters and opponents (political or not), Minister Idelphonse Lemon is now the nation's big accountant. He is responsible for investigating our finances with his collaborators, the money to replenish the state coffers, and for enabling the prime minister to hold on until the next political, economic, and social deadlines.

To succeed in this gamble, Mr Idelphonse Lemon holds two big trump cards:

- His great stature as an established banker, which assures him a great deal of presence, and he at the same time exudes a feeling of great credibility, qualities which financial backers are sensitive to.
- The active resumption of operations in all of Benin's financial sectors, another guarantee of an influx of revenue from all directions, which will enable the finance minister to fill the wage pot, thus sounding the death knell of the months fluctuation, which sometimes ranged between 30 and 90 days.

"With Idelphonse Lemon in charge of finances, Nicephore can sleep in peace." This is how a colleague ventured to put it last 12 March on hearing of the new government's list of appointments. Will the new finance minister be able to overcome the structural and especially human rigidities that are still characteristic of the landscape of this big ministry?

National Education: A Lively Assembly

The resumption of classes (pedagogical activities, as some rhetoricians would put it) has been one of the prime minister's pet issues. Okay, teachers have responded in unison, but not until both salaries are fully paid. We know what followed. If we exclude the imperfections of the degrading way they are paid, a legacy of the vicissitudes of the crisis, and which deprived some teachers of their salaries for January and February 1990, we may consider the fact that nearly all government employees received their salaries for both months.

The fact remains that this promise by the transition government has eased tension in the world of labor and placated the agitated members of the different teaching categories. Primary, secondary, technical, professional, and university: Everyone has gone back to school. Not without difficulty since every return to school or university obviously always involves some backsliding, even in times of social peace. If there were major inadequacies on this occasion of a return to school following a crisis, that would only have a priori raised the eyebrows of those who are always dissatisfied and, God knows, a large percentage of these people continue to fill the schools and universities.

In any case, the new head of the Education Ministry is not a choir boy in his new ministerial duties. To be sure, Minister Paulin Hountondji has not so far made the slightest thunderous promise. At the outside, he hopes that he will get things moving with the financial means that may be at his disposal. In this way, after having here and there solved the problems of broken chairs and benches, flat tires and other schoolbus breakdowns, not to forget the restoration of power and water to schools, Minister Paulin Hountondji will be able to seriously make preparations for the celebrated National Education Assembly so greatly desired and recommended by the National Conference. What is at issue here is to reimburse our educational system with a soul, a system led

astray and nearly dead because of 15 years of "garbage school" characterized by institutionalization and mediocrity. And as the minister of national education so aptly put it, we are going to have to busy ourselves with reversing the 15 years of mediocrity to return to excellence. So, let the holding of this assembly be lively so that the Ministry of National Education does not falter with Paulin Hountondji, as the new minister's detractors claim it will.

Territorial Administration: Give Administrators a Chance

If there is a ministry on which any new government looks with envy, it is the Ministry of Interior. And when the Interior Ministry is mentioned, it quite naturally brings to mind problems involving security and territorial administration. Thank God, all these terminologies are now combined under the sonorous acronym MISPAT [Ministry of Interior, National Security, and Territorial Administration]. For former president of the bar association Florentin Feliho, now minister of interior, MISPAT is a whole program. In principle, matters coming under the headings of interior and national security should pose no major problems for this man of the law, and therefore of law and order. With the aid of his police collaborators, we can already see a bit more law and order in our traffic intersections during the day and a bit less harassment from uniformed policemen after midnight.

Fewer arrests for trifling infractions, better preventive detention conditions, and strict observance of the 48-to-72-hour close surveillance time limit except at the official request of the public prosecutor, swift preliminary examination, and placement at the disposal of the Public Prosecutor's Office as soon as possible: This is what citizens are demanding and expect of their new minister of interior. And as soon as he is relieved of his responsibilities for the operation of markets (SOGEMA [not further expanded] and others), the minister of interior will be able to seriously occupy himself with the redistricting of the country paired with proposals for the redeployment of new command personnel. It is being whispered in the corridors of MISPAT that the minister, on the advice of the High Council of the Republic and the prime minister, intends to increase the number of provinces while reducing the number of districts, increase the powers of the mayors, and put new life into the cantons.

This redistribution, which has not yet been assigned a name, will sound the death knell of the former reform of the territorial administration (PRPB version), under which teachers, mail clerks, and chauffeurs were, in the space of two or three Wednesday evenings, appointed to head districts that were nothing but names, places that were only defined by caprice. In due course, the new minister of interior, who will at the same time be the organizer or supervisor of the next, but ever so essential parliamentary and presidential elections, will propose a

new administrative map of Benin as well as civilian administrators and real managers where necessary.

Settling Old Scores, No; Legal Settlement, Yes

Justice with neither flaws nor weakness for those who participated in the looting of the nation's wealth. The thunderous applause that greeted this sentence by the prime minister, uttered during his inaugural speech on Monday, the 12th of last March, at the Palace of the Republic bore witness to the sympathetic response it aroused in the public present in the people's hall, and through them in the Beninese as a whole. While we may note that the Beninese are not eager to see blood needlessly shed, it is, on the other hand, difficult to assert that the settling of old scores is not their prerogative. It is, however, between these two observations of our society that the application of exemplary justice must be sought.

Consequently, the Beninese expect the prime minister, and incidentally Mr Yves Yehouessi (the new minister of justice and legislation), to keep the promises they made last 12 March. This, at least, is the feeling one gets from street conversations, statements made in public places, and at other forums where citizens may have an opportunity to voice their opinions on the government's actions.

Mr Nicephore Soglo has promised the Beninese that he will beef up the National Commission for the Verification of Property—formerly called the "Ahouansou Commission"—with high-level national and international technicians to successfully carry out their mission, while its points of reference, powers, and procedures will at the same time be respecified.

The message is now clear to everybody. The fact remains that [the government] has not yet begun to implement it, which has given rise to a slew of rumors in the hamlets. In short, there are, on the one hand, the pessimists, those for whom the "Ahouansou Commission" is already dead and buried, and, on the other, the "doubting Thomases," those who are waiting to see the first measures implemented before concentrating on what follows and above all on the chances for this commission, reexamined and corrected, to get those who have looted the national economy to make restitution.

Unpopular Armed Forces: From Civilian Disorder to Military Disorder

"We want to return to our barracks, but not to be told to do so in a humiliating way." This is how a young Army officer put it just a few days before the inauguration of the National Conference. A week later voices carrying much more authority than his in the military hierarchy announced to the Conference and the nation the military's desire to withdraw from the political scene which—it is true—has for too long been occupied by "elements in uniform" much more inclined to exercise power than to prevent destabilization. In trying to forget the retired colonel's unfortunate, "Rambo-like" outburst, we may nevertheless bear in mind the wise decision of the military to disappear from the day-to-day

political scene. The change hoped for by the military and confirmed by the results of the Conference has, moreover, begun with, for the first time in the history of Benin, the assumption of the post of minister of defense by a "civilian." When he assumed his duties as minister of defense on Monday, 19 March last, the prime minister reiterated to the visibly annoyed dignitaries of our Army his determination to restore order to this stable that was beginning to pull in opposite directions. Come officially and by forceful means to put an end to civilian disorder, the Army gradually supplanted the civilians only to ultimately install military disorder, for this military disorder exists and one need only look about oneself to be convinced of the fact. In any corporation the good, the less good, and finally the bad are distinguished from one another. Like any army, the Beninese Army has its good elements, those who have chosen the military profession as a vocation, a reason for living. There is no doubt that there are excellent soldiers, policemen, police militia...among the soldiers, noncoms, and field officers who make up our Armed Forces. On the other hand, there are also bad soldiers, even those who distinguish themselves through their bad behavior. These are the ones in improper uniform, with faded berets, and dirty boots that are never polished. In the streets, public places, and other places that they share with civilians, they never pass up an opportunity to illustrate and display their verbal and physical brutality when they on occasion—and unfortunately often—have not been too quick on the trigger. In our urban centers many of them ride motorcycles or drive unregistered personal vehicles that have often not cleared customs and are uninsured.

So, when will the time come to separate the wheat from the chaff that undermines soldiers' morals? The time when selective criteria will play a role in the way future soldiers are recruited. The time when, to apply for a position in the military profession, the candidate will have to first have experience in a manual vocation or possess a high-level professional degree. Such a selection will enable our country to have available to it a real army of reliable staff personnel and technicians who know how to do everything, or almost everything, from plumbing to data processing running the gamut of carpentry and industrial or agricultural techniques.

So, the Army continues to be a good subject for contemplation since, beyond the little problems raised here, our Army's real problem lies elsewhere. Our country has need of real soldiers who have learned and know how to perform some noble vocation capable of keeping them busy serving the nation rather than subjugating it by violently replacing civilians in the name of a supposedly patriotic mission that is ill-perceived and poorly carried out.

The Press: Awaiting a High Council

The National Conference passed a motion congratulating the press, which provided full coverage of its proceedings. In choosing to pay formal public tribute to the journalists and technicians, the Conference wanted

to salute the courage they displayed before and after the proceedings. If, not to be finicky about it, the journalists and other media people accept the honors they have been offered, they will be regarding this tribute as an incentive to perfection.

Perfection, this is the key word. Since the news media also need to be able to express themselves more effectively. Here is a corporation that counts among its ranks clever, knowledgeable people who are capable of doing better things, as we find elsewhere in the world, people who ask for only one thing: freedom. But, as is also the case elsewhere, there are some black sheep in this news media corps. They have lain hidden in the press organs, corroded by 17 years of incompetence, wallowing in mediocrity, refusing to question themselves to avoid challenging themselves. By day, they are veritable jackals for this or that political authority; by night, they become crawling, fawning animals in search of second-rate posts when they have just missed out on a post that they were destined for.

These colleagues, who may be granted the title of journalist by indulgence, did not, so to speak, miss an opportunity to humble themselves before the PR regime which they thought they were docilely serving and which did not even have the good manners to reward them for their zeal. Today, in a time of democratic renewal, the Beninese press may take it upon itself to ponder this. Every journalist sees and wants to exploit the freedom he has acquired as he sees fit....

The Beninese need a free press that can tell them the truth verbally and in writing. The prime minister seems to have realized this and even surprised most of the journalists who participated in his first meeting with the press since his investiture last 12 March by practically forcing some of his ministers who had been challenged in leaflets to explain themselves in answer to reporters' questions. A fine example that deserves to be followed.

To effectively guide the democratic renewal, the Beninese press must be able to base itself on dynamic, open, inventive people with experience in journalism and media techniques, professionals who are listened to and are critical of their own actions and those of other colleagues. As a matter of fact, this breed of people exists; they are few in number and, because of this, they deserve to be increased in number through a real, planned training program in Benin as well as abroad.

The second requirement to enable the press to express itself is that it be adequately equipped. To do this, there has to be a policy for soliciting aid in the form of equipment, diversified aid available to the press and the audiovisual media.

The third and last requirement right now, to see to it that the press really gets off to a good start, is its regulation. Without beating about the bush, to govern the function

and powers of the press, a High Council of Communication must be created to lead it, a council whose charter will guarantee the existence of and respect for its legal foundations.

For the press and for other sensitive sectors, these are the areas in which urgent and appropriate measures are essential right now. The fact remains that, although the prime minister does not have a magic wand, he can nevertheless set his priorities now so that he will not be pressed for time.

Guinea-Bissau

President Affirms Moves to Multiparty System

AB1505183290 Dakar PANA in English 1618 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Bissau, 15 May (ANG/PANA)—President Joao Bernardo Viera of Guinea-Bissau has affirmed that the ruling African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) is in the process of creating conditions for the installation of multipartism in the West African nation.

Addressing Gabu Region residents Sunday, Joao Viera said "we shall open the political system to enable the people to choose their best party" on a non-tribal basis.

Justifying the turning to multipartism on the country's transformation over the last few years, the president cautioned, however, that the political opening should take place under the spirit of dialogue.

"The preoccupation of the government is to guarantee the well being and peace of the country", said the president who also called for increased production.

Turning to the sea border conflict with Senegal, Joao Viera said his government wants to see a peaceful solution with Senegal. "We do not ask for what does not belong to us but we shall not give up what belongs to us," he stated.

The president briefed the Gabu residents on process which led to the sea border conflict and how Guinea-Bissau had approached Senegalese officials in the search for a peaceful solution in international organizations.

The head of state also talked about the seizure of a Soviet fishing boat by the Senegalese marine [as received] on 1 April in Guinea-Bissau territorial waters. He deplored the multiple violations of Guinea-Bissau's territory by Senegalese authorities.

On 30 April he had appealed to the international community to intervene so as to avoid a military confrontation that can only cause suffering among the populations of the two countries.

Ivory Coast

Soldiers Demonstrate, Seek 'Revenge' in Abidjan

'Young Recruits' Take to Streets

AB1605131590 London BBC World Service in English
1200 GMT 16 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program:]

[Text] In Ivory Coast, hundreds of soldiers are on the streets of Abidjan in what appears to be a continuation of protests by young recruits about their pay and conditions. Elizabeth Blunt reports:

[Begin Blunt recording] The mutinous soldiers poured out of their camp on the outskirts of Abidjan around 0400 in the morning. According to a reliable source they were heading for the nearby camp of the Gendarmerie, the paramilitary force which had been sent to guard the young recruits who attempted to take over the radio station on Monday morning and broadcast their grievances.

Apparently furious at being punished by the gendarmes after being promised by the president that there would be no reprisals for these protests, the young soldiers were out for revenge. But when they were unable to get into the Gendarmerie camp, they set out around town and alarmed residents found themselves caught up in the protests as the soldiers commandeered lorries, taxis, and private cars and fired into the air. A few armored cars were seen on the streets, but it is not clear whether they were being driven by the protestors or whether they were being sent to guard strategic points. One group went to the airport where they chased everyone out of the buildings, firing into the air as they did so. All the roads to the airport are now blocked; the airport is closed; and no flight has been able to take off or land since approximately half past eight this morning.

Around 1000 o'clock, a long convoy of lorries and other vehicles finally returned to the main Army camp, the troops on board hanging out of the doors, shouting and brandishing their guns. Some of the vehicles also had firemen and what appeared to be young civilians on board. Inside the camp, officers would only say that their men had felt like going for a drive around town and that now they were back. [end recording]

Gendarmes Retake TV Station

AB1605125890 Paris AFP in French 1202 GMT
16 May 90

[Text] Abidjan, 16 May (AFP)—At about 1100 GMT, Ivorian gendarmes regained control of the television buildings, which had been occupied since early this morning by disgruntled soldiers. At the same time, other loyalist soldiers were trying to regain control of the airport, according to reporters at the scene. It seems that there was no exchange of fire. The gendarmes, who arrived in two armored vehicles, regained control of the

television station, arrested young recruits, and compelled them to take off their military uniforms. The regular programs of the television station, located in Cocody, a residential district of Abidjan, begins at 1200 GMT. Many of the soldiers managed to escape in commandeered taxis.

Meanwhile, four armored vehicles have arrived at the Port-Bouet Airport, some 15 km from the center of Abidjan. Gendarmes told an AFP journalist that the airport has been declared a "prohibited military zone." That journalist actually saw a convoy of gendarme trucks coming to the airport.

The disgruntled soldiers have many individual weapons. The Army Command, however, succeeded in preventing them from taking Army vehicles as they had during their previous demonstration, on the night of Sunday, 12 May.

There is extreme confusion all over the city in the absence of any official reaction by the authorities and many shops and government offices are closed.

Army Surrounds Airport

LD1605132890 Paris Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Abidjan international airport has been closed. The army has taken up position around several strategic installations after a revolt by some of these young soldiers who are demanding an increase in their pay. The army has set up roadblocks in the area surrounding the airport, which, according to a colonel, has been taken by assault.

Violence Said Near Railroad Station

AB1605132490 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT
16 May 90

[Text] [No dateline as received] There were unconfirmed rumors of violence near Adjame railway station.

Soldiers also fired on a car in which a French television journalist was trying to go to the airport.

The journalist said the soldiers told him they had taken over the airport "to prevent government ministers from leaving."

The incidents followed protests against military living conditions on Monday, in which some 500 young soldiers surrounded the radio and television stations, prompting fears that a coup d'etat was underway.

The radio was broadcasting normally on Wednesday and there was no immediate official statement on the incidents.

Defense Minister Issues Statement

AB1605144090 Abidjan Television Ivoirienne
Network in French 1350 GMT 16 May 90

[Statement issued by Ivorian Government in Abidjan on 16 May on recruits' action; read by Defense Minister Jean Konan Banny—live]

[Text] Dear compatriots, on the night of 13 May and in the early morning hours of 14 May, a group of troops called the contingents of the classes 87/1/A; 87/2/A; and 88/1/A revolted. After gaining access to weapons and sequestering their superior officers, they went to the radio station with the intention of having their demands broadcast on the radio.

These troops, some of whom are scheduled to be demobilized next June, and others in December 1990 and June 1991, thus wanted to demand that they be maintained within the Army beyond the legal term of service, which is contrary to the law on recruitment into the Army. This is because Ivory Coast, at the time of its independence, chose to have an Army of conscripts and not career soldiers.

Even though the path chosen by the troops to express their demands was not in conformity with regulations, the soldiers, through their delegates, were received by the president of the Republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The president of the Republic, after calming them down, assured them that their situation will be examined by the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Wednesday 16 May 1990, so that the contingent scheduled for demobilization in June could remain in the Army, except for those who want to leave the army. This would also hold for the next two contingents scheduled for demobilization.

At the same time, it was promised that compensation paid to the conscripts will be increased and that living conditions in the barracks will be improved.

Despite this assurance by the head of state, the soldiers, for reasons so far unknown, continued their demonstrations in the streets. Thus, the demands, which, at the start, were well founded, and about which the head of state made a distinct promise, were today followed by acts of intolerable banditry on the part of the soldiers who are charged to defend goods and people.

Having examined the gravity of the situation, the government has taken measures to put an end to these acts which are in no way a credit to our country. Consequently, the government invites these soldiers to go back to the barracks and hand over their arms, because it is impossible in a disorderly situation to take measures in favor of uncontrolled elements dispersed across the city.

After judging that calm has returned, the minister of defense and military authorities, in accordance with the instructions of the head of state, will take the appropriate measures.

Soldiers Protest in Yamoussoukro

AB1605140390 Paris AFP in French 1346 GMT
16 May 90

[Text] Abidjan, 16 May (AFP)—Some 100 Ivorian soldiers this morning demonstrated in the streets of Yamoussoukro, the political capital and birthplace of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, it was learned from reliable sources in Abidjan.

According to eyewitnesses interviewed by AFP, these soldiers paraded in the three large avenues of this modern capital without chanting slogans, and they did not express any demands. As of 1300, no incidents were reported.

Government Communique Warns Soldiers

LD1605153890 Paris Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpts] The Ivorian Government, in a television communique, has just called on the soldiers who have revolted to lay down their weapons and return to the barracks. The government is accusing certain soldiers of having committed intolerable criminal actions and asserts that the reasons for their movement are unknown, while it considers perfectly understandable that which the soldiers who had demonstrated gave on 14 May. [sentence as heard] Groups of discontented soldiers took up position within the enclosure of the television station and at the airport this morning. The police recaptured the television late this morning while other police forces went to the airport, which has been closed. [passage omitted]

The accusations of criminal actions refer to unofficial reports of looting carried out by soldiers in three working class districts of the capital and the requisition of taxis by certain soldiers who did not have a vehicle.

Abidjan Tense; French Troops on Alert

AB1605155890 Paris International Service
in French 1500 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The Ivorian Government has asked the mutineers to lay down their arms and to return to their barracks. The warning was given a few hours after the start of the showdown by soldiers dissatisfied with their working and living conditions. They have occupied the Ivorian television station and, in particular, the Abidjan airport. Security forces took up positions around strategic places to prevent them from becoming eventual targets of the mutineers and airlines have been interrupted. Robert Minangoy reports:

[Begin recording] The atmosphere still remains very tense in Abidjan as young conscripts have returned to the streets. Like last Monday [14 May], this morning they occupied the area around the television station. The airport is also blocked by elements of the Airborne Transport and Liaison Unit. Air traffic has been suspended. This is to keep ministers from fleeing the country, some mutineers in army uniforms stated. Loyal troops are keeping civilians out of the airport area, while the 600 French troops of the 43d Marine Infantry Battalion are on alert. The young mutineers requisitioned taxicabs and trucks to transport themselves.

In the afternoon, the uniformed mutineers were apparently very hungry. They broke into one bakery at Port-Bouet [a suburb near Abidjan airport] and made away with the stock of bread. These special elements also had self-service at the Treichville market.

In Yamoussoukro, about 100 men in military uniform demonstrated along the major roads of the political capital, the president's hometown, the mayor of which is none other than the minister of defense, Mr. Jean Konan Banny. They chanted no slogans. They made no demands.

On Monday, however, the conscripts demanded their final integration within the Army as well as a salary of at least 80,000 CFA [African Financial Community] francs. President Houphouet-Boigny reportedly made promises to representatives of the protesters, but the detention of five of their comrades considered ring-leaders reportedly generated this morning's action. [end recording]

Troops Demand To Meet Army Head

AB1605162490 London BBC World Service in English
1500 GMT 16 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] In Ivory Coast, the main airport in Abidjan is closed and hundreds of young Army recruits are roving around the city brandishing weapons in what appears to be a continuation of protest about pay and conditions. Elizabeth Blunt reports:

[Begin Blunt recording] Ivory Coast's main city is now in a state of very considerable confusion with absolutely no official explanation of what is going on. Buses have stopped running and shops and markets closed after some youngsters took advantage of the confusion to loot and steal.

One group of protesters, apparently young air force men, is still holding the airport, which they took over at about half past 8 in the morning. Airport staff said that they arrived firing in the air and ordered everyone out of the airport buildings, and since then no flights have been able to take off or land. A correspondent for the ASSOCIATED PRESS news agency who managed to talk to some of the troops occupying the airport said that they were demanding a meeting with the head of the Armed Forces, General Felix Ory, and that they had given him until 5 o'clock this afternoon to come and talk to them.

Another group, which occupied the television station in a residential suburb of Abidjan, was eventually chased out in midmorning, apparently without shots having been fired. [end recording]

Protesters: Defense Minister 'Corrupt'

AB1605184090 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 16 May 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There have been all sorts of chaos on the streets of Abidjan again and for the second time this week, soldiers have been mounting another protest. It began on Monday [14 May] when they demanded improvements

in pay and conditions, demands that Ivory Coast's President Houphouet-Boigny promised to look into. But, it seems they were not satisfied and came out of their barracks again today and they have even taken control of the airport. On the line, Julian Marshall asked our correspondent Elizabeth Blunt what was going on:

[Begin recording] [Blunt] Well, the latest thing is that the defense minister, Jean Konan Banny, has just gone on television, which is the first word there has been from the official side about anything and, so far, programs on the radio and the television have been virtually pretending that nothing was happening at all. And he went on television and he talked about what had happened on Monday. He said that the young people have been seen by the president and that the final decision on their demands was going to be taken by the Cabinet on Thursday. And yet, he said, despite this, some of them had given themselves over to looting and pillage, banditry and vandalism. And he was quite polite. He said he invited them, rather than (?warn them), he invited to lay down their arms now and to go back to their barracks. And he was appealing to them to do this.

[Marshall] [Words indistinct], Liz, this is not so much a protest, more a rebellion now.

[Blunt] Well, I think it is a mixture of the two, and most importantly now is that the mutineers or protesters, whatever you like to call them, in this case young Air Force men are still holding the airport, which has closed Abidjan's international airport all day. And they managed to dislodge them from the television without violence, but I do not know whether they can do the same trick and get them out of the airport. And I do not think Jean Konan Banny going on television to talk to them will help much because one journalist who managed to get inside the airport said that the mutineers in there were very, very critical of Konan Banny. They said they wanted to talk to the head of the Armed Forces, General Felix Ory. They said that if the defense minister came in, they would shoot him, because he was a crook and because he was an extremely rich man. They thought he was very corrupt indeed. So, I do not know if this is going to pacify them at all.

[Marshall] Can the government rely on any loyal units to restore order?

[Blunt] I do not know. Most of the people we have seen around the streets were young, were apparently national service men, but not all of them. There were regular soldiers among them, there were, at least junior officers among them. I do not know. There are parts of the Army based outside Abidjan. There is a battalion, for instance, in Bouake, and there is, of course, the French contingent at the airport, just around the corner from where this mutiny is going on. But it would obviously be a very, very serious matter if the French were to intervene, so I would not think that this is likely to happen.

[Marshall] From what you have been able to see and hear so far, at what point do you think this could possibly turn into a fully fledged coup?

[Blunt] I would have thought not with the people who are doing it at the moment. I think the real risk would be if most senior members of the Army began to feel that really the government was losing its grip on affairs and that the whole thing was getting out of hand and that, you know, Ivory Coast needeh what some might call a [word indistinct] firm government and they came in to take over. I do not think these youngsters have any intention of making a coup and I do not quite see it turning, as it were, directly into a coup d'etat. [end recording]

Gendarmes Retake Abidjan Airport

AB1605194190 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 16 May 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There have been all sorts of chaos on the streets of Abidjan again, as for the second time this week, soldiers have been mounting another protest. It began on Monday [14 May] when they demanded improvements in pay and conditions, demands that Ivory Coast's President Houphouet-Boigny promised to look into. But it seems they were not satisfied and came out of their barracks again and even took control of the airport. Well, Elizabeth Blunt is on the line. Elizabeth, you have just been to the airport. What's been going on there, just now?

[Blunt] Well, it has just been taken back by the authorities, by in fact the gendarmerie there, the paramilitary force, who went there about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, as far as we can gather, and according to one of their officers, he said they persuaded the young mutineers to give up and to go back to their barracks. We asked him if they resisted and he said no. He said they were cross, they were angry, but they did manage to persuade them to leave quickly, or fairly quietly. And they went back to their barracks, the Air Force barracks on the Air Force compound. We asked him if they have been arrested. No, he said, they have just gone away.

And so, now the airport is back in the hands of the authorities after having been occupied by the dissident soldiers for the whole day, but flights still have not restarted because all the staff have gone home, a lot of the staff have gone home. I should think it is going to be quite difficult to get the airport open and working again before tomorrow morning. I would imagine all the control tower and everything has to be checked to make sure there has been no damage.

[Bickerton] Now, what about the city itself, because there has been quite a lot of activity there today. What is the situation now?

[Blunt] It is quiet now, quieter than usual, in fact. People have gone home early or staying off the streets. But really, the problem in the city itself was in the morning. There was

a huge force of dissident soldiers, in hundreds, you know, between 500, 600, even 1,000, (?driving) around town in a great convoy of trucks and taxis that they had commandeered. When we met some of them—I think they had come from the radio station which occupied for a time in the morning—they were leaning out, they were shouting, they were waving their guns, and some groups also went off and drove around various suburbs and various market areas. Everyone was terrified and shut up shops and some youngsters took advantage to steal things and to loot. It was extremely chaotic and nothing was said on the radio, nothing was said on the television. Nobody knew, at the least, what was going on.

[Bickerton] But they have all gone back to barracks too?

[Blunt] As far as I can tell, they have gone back to barracks. Certainly as things seem quiet and with night coming on, I think it will be quiet this evening. The defense minister is giving a press conference right about now, Mr. Jean Konan Banny, and I expect he will say something about what has been going on. We may learn a little more about the official position.

[Bickerton] Why did they actually come out for a second time? After all, they met President Houphouet-Boigny on Monday and it seems to be all settled.

[Blunt] Well, indeed, he promised them various things which made them very happy. But I gathered that they felt that now, the government or the army was going back or trying to go back on their promises. Some of them had been punished or arrested when they were told they would not be and they gathered that the Army top brass was advising the president that he did not have to give way to their demands and this made them very angry. But, today's protest was much much bigger than the one on Monday morning.

[Bickerton] And in fact, what are their demands? Are they just about pay and conditions or is it something much more deep-seated?

[Blunt] [Words indistinct] is about being rehired at the end of their national service, which is important to young people when there is such a high unemployment as there is now. So, it is [words indistinct] they are only paid less than 4,000 CFA [African Financial Community] francs a month [figure as heard] and that is in an expensive country where the minimum wage is about 35,000, their condition about their living condition. But, I think it is political as well. They were saying things to us like their officers steal the money, that the government steals money, they are not happy with the whole set-up. They have very little respect for some of the men who are leading them. And I think what are basically economic and professional demands, could also have a political complexion to them.

[Bickerton] And do you think the government is going to have to make more concessions now?

[Blunt] Well, ever since the current wave of protests began in the Ivory Coast, the government has [words indistinct] by making concessions. They students protested, they got their meal prices and their lodging prices cut. The workers protested and the government changed its stand on wage cuts. Intellectuals protested and the government gave way on multiparty democracy. I think the young soldiers probably think the government is going to give way to them as well.

Air Traffic Returns to Normal

AB1605193190 Abidjan Television Ivorianne Network in French 1915 GMT 16 May 90

[16 May communique issued by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Construction, and Town Planning]

[Text] Air traffic has now returned to normal at the Port Bouet Airport. The various services' employees, therefore, are called on to return to their posts immediately.

Government: Curfew Rumors 'Unfounded'

AB1605200090 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Persistent rumors have been saying that a curfew has been imposed because of the situation generated by the demonstration of young army conscripts. The government makes it a point to inform everyone that these rumors are unfounded. Consequently, it calls on the people to go about their normal business.

Defense Minister Holds News Conference

AB1705120490 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1950 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] As I said earlier, the young army recruits, who demonstrated early on 14 May in the morning on the premises of the radio and television network, went to other districts in Abidjan to stage additional demonstrations. Defense Minister Jean Konan Banny briefs us on the situation:

[Begin Banny recording] Indeed, they are young people, young recruits, who were to end their tour of duty at the end of June. They decided to push through a number of demands. They used methods which are not used in the Army and which, in other places, could have led to wanton killing. But, as you are aware, our policy in this country is to use dialogue and consultation. Indeed, early on 14 May, we were informed that young people, recruits who were to end their tour of duty, were marching on Abidjan. They asked to be heard. We could have stopped them with the help of the police and Gendarmerie, particularly with men from the Gendarmerie Academy, which was in their path. The Police and Gendarmerie Academies had the necessary arms and equipment to stop them on the Bingerville Road. But we had no intention of doing so, since these young recruits were armed and aged between 19 and 21. We had to act by taking into account their lack of experience. Thus, we

tried to stop them and ask them what they wanted. As is always the case with youths, they continued to advance to shout and, thus, they got onto the premises of the radio station where they asked to read a message. This message, of course, was not read. When he was informed, the president of the Republic asked to talk to them. Consequently, they aired their grievances, which were of two types.

It must be said that because of the present crisis, the young recruits, after their military service, find it very difficult to find employment and that consequently, they hope to be reenlisted into the Army. But as you know, it is impossible for an army which is not a professional army, but an army of conscription, to reemploy an entire contingent. But this is what these young men were demanding, saying that they feared that they would not be able to find jobs if all of them are to be released, and that they would like to remain in the Army.

At first, they even said that in case they are not reenlisted in the Army, they would like to be employed in the paramilitary forces, such as the Gendarmerie or the police, and that this should be done without sitting for any competitive examination. [Banny laughs] You understand very well that it is not possible that people be employed in structures which, under normal circumstances, are staffed only by means of competitive examinations. It is difficult to decide to employ them without being tested. This is not possible, but in reality, these young men really are trying to solve a problem concerning their future.

That is why the president of the Republic immediately assured them that he would ask the cabinet meeting to ratify what has already been considered a decision of the government—that is, to postpone the date for the release of these young recruits. The date had already been fixed at 20 June for the first batch, December 1990 for the second contingent, and June 1991 for the third contingent. One of their demands also concerned what they considered an injustice, saying that as soldiers, they were not all allowed to sit for a test to enable them to be promoted to higher grades.

All those who know the life of armies know that a whole contingent cannot sit for promotion examinations. If this is were to be, we would have an entire army constantly sitting for tests and getting promoted, and maybe to the same grades; and after some time, we would all become generals if we remain in the army. They also said that their conditions of life in the camps are quite difficult. They even said that they were deplorable. They had some difficulties in their clothing, and even have some problems concerning their housing.

Yes, it is true. It is true that in view of the crisis that is raging in our country, we have not always been able to satisfy all their demands, which we all know about because we all receive reports about the morale of the troops. Really, we know that they have some difficulties regarding their housing, clothing, and maintenance.

Even in the case of military equipment to ensure the defense of the country, it is necessary to say that they have some difficulties. It is also necessary to say that Ivory Coast has not always considered defense as a priority area, because we have conceived our nation in an atmosphere of peaceful development.

At any rate, their demands were about to be satisfied. The president of the Republic has given formal assurances, and we thought that that was good. As a result, the young recruits, who had been received by the president of the Republic—because they had constituted a delegation of more than some 15 members—expressed their total satisfaction with this decision. They applauded and expressed their loyalty to the party and their love for the president of the Republic and went away. They went away and we thought that they were going to their camps. In fact, they went back to the camps, and some of them consulted one another and decided, it seems, to wait until the promise made to them by the president was confirmed by the Cabinet. This means that since that date, many of them did not return to the camps, but remained in town.

We made some inquiries aimed at sending them back to their camps, and suddenly we noticed that the troubles were not only persisting, but that they were worsening, and we had to take a certain number of measures. Since we made this appeal, things seem to have returned to normal. The airport, which had been occupied by the young recruits—the control tower has been freed. The runway is free. It is unfortunate that the air traffic personnel, the civilians who were driven out of their workplaces, are not at their posts now, and although the control tower is free as I am speaking now, there is nobody to direct the air traffic. Apart from that, all the technical installations at the airport have been freed and the young men have now been assembled in the yard of the air base and of the first battalion, and they are explaining what they consider to be their grievances to their competent authorities. It must be said that there are a lot of points raised in their demands. They will be examined, however, and as we said in peace, serenity, and when order has been restored. In conformity with the instructions which the president of the Republic will give us, we shall take the appropriate measures. [end recording]

That was Defense Minister Jean Konan Banny, who made it a point to specify that the young men who came out of the camp were in fact armed. But the acts of vandalism committed by some of them did not cause any gunshot injuries. Also, no deaths were recorded. Concerning the number of demonstrators, the minister explained that there were about 150 to start with, but we can add some imposters who took advantage of the situation. A small number of young men in military combat gear engaged in acts of banditry and added to their number. The minister also explained that recruits in the interior of the country, having heard that their colleagues in Abidjan had formulated some demands, also informed their unit commanders that they also had the same grievances. But, the minister said, there was

never a question of anybody moving toward Abidjan in connection with what is happening here.

In conclusion, after the government's appeal this afternoon, the situation is progressively returning to normal.

Houphouet-Boigny Calls Meeting 17 May

AB1605201890 Abidjan Television Ivoirienne
Network in French 2000 GMT 16 May 90

[Communique issued by President Houphouet-Boigny in Abidjan on 16 May 1990]

[Text] The chairman of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast-African Democratic Rally summons members of the Political Bureau to a working session at 1100 tomorrow, 17 May 1990, at the permanent office of the party in Plateau [the business center of Abidjan].

Official Approval of Demands Sought

AB1705112790 London BBC World Service in English
0730 GMT 17 May 90

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] As you may have heard in the news, dissident soldiers yesterday made a bizarre protest over pay and conditions by seizing the control tower of the Abidjan International Airport. Well, to find out exactly what has been happening, Marco Werman spoke to Robert Weller of the ASSOCIATED PRESS in Abidjan.

[Begin recording] [Weller] Everything is quiet at the Abidjan airport now but it remains closed because, even though soldiers who had occupied the building yesterday left in the early evening, the town is pretty quiet at the moment although some sources say that some soldiers did not return to their barracks and are still roaming around town carrying their weapons.

[Werman] Now, was there any sort of popular support in Abidjan that you know of during yesterday, any popular support for the soldiers?

[Weller] We could not say that there was any popular support but no one was objecting to it either and at the airport, the customs people seemed to be rather sympathetic to the soldiers and the taxi drivers actually seemed to be joking about it.

[Werman] The soldiers who occupied the control tower at the airport were asking for better pay. Do you think this is really the limit of the soldiers' grievances?

[Weller] Better pay, better allowances, I think that I would be reading things... [changes thought] bringing something into it if I went beyond that, but they all said they were very angry to see ministers riding around Abidjan in BMWs and Mercedeses. One of them said that you see more cars like that here than you do in the UK or the United States. One of the chief airport mechanics, who makes 100,000 CFA's [African Financial Community francs] a month which is more than

\$300 and many times more than what the recruits make, and he was angry about the treatment that they receive. [sentence as heard] He was angry about watching on television people being honored by the government and they claimed to getting money from the president and this is what triggered the thing on Monday [14 May].

Last weekend, there was group of young men shown on television wearing shirts saying they supported the president. Now, these people are described using a French word that can be translated as thugs and the soldiers were very angry that these people had been shown on television and they said they were certain these people had been given money by the president for coming out and supporting him.

[Werman] Robert, you watched the minister of defense on television last night. What exactly did he say in reference to the rebel soldiers at the airport?

[Weller] He said that what happened yesterday should not be exaggerated. He said that even though weapons had been fired in the air, not a single injury had been reported up to this point. He said the soldiers were back in their barracks, and perhaps they had been a bit impatient. He said, yes, their conditions are deplorable but the Ivory Coast has been a country that focussed on development and not the on the Army, and that is one of the reasons why they have not spent a lot of money on the Army. He said their demands will be considered but that it would take some time.

[Werman] Do you think the soldiers and the population in general is going to buy that sort of explanation?

[Weller] The soldiers are not going to buy it until it is officially approved. They kept saying over and over yesterday that they wanted it officially proclaimed that their conditions will be improved. They said if they are not improved, we will be back here again at airport within two or three months. [end recording]

Calm Reported in Abidjan 17 May

AB1705091490 Paris AFP in English 0842 GMT
17 May 90

[Excerpts] Abidjan, May 17 (AFP)—Life returned to normal in the Ivory Coast capital after talks began Wednesday night with disgruntled conscripts who had temporarily seized control of the airport and the state television building.

Defence Minister Jean Konan Banny announced the talks Wednesday night saying measures would be taken to avoid further such troubles.

He said no one had been hurt and life had returned to normal in the Ivory Coast's economic capital here, but refused to reveal what measures would be enforced.

A decision to confine the Army to barracks "depended on future events," but the Army's policing role, which it

has carried out since October 1989 alongside police and gendarmes, could end. [passage omitted]

In Abidjan several dozens conscripts, some armed, had demonstrated Wednesday outside the television station, which had earlier been taken over by mutineers. Conscripts also seized the airport.

As people thought a coup might be underway, order was quickly restored outside the television station, but the rebels abandoned the airport only late afternoon after troops set out to retake it in armoured cars. Flights resumed shortly after.

Mr. Banny said the mutineers had agreed to meet their superiors at the military air base and the 1st Battalion barracks at Akuedo, 20 kilometres (13 miles) from here.

None of the soldiers involved in the troubles of recent days had been punished, he said.

He denied that conscripts were planning to come here from other towns, but admitted demands had also been made outside Abidjan.

Reliable sources said demonstrations took place at Yamoussoukro, the political capital and birthplace of president Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

Conscripts' demands that their length of service be extended and conditions and pay improved had first burst over into demonstrations on Monday when 500 soldiers surrounded the radio and television stations.

Mr. Banny admitted that certain grievances were justified, but pointed out that the country had serious financial difficulties and urged calm. This week's Army agitation follows strikes and demonstrations by students and workers in recent months, protesting government austerity measures.

French Gendarmes Expected 18 May

AB1705151490 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Abidjan, May 17 (AFP)—Life was almost back to normal Thursday in Abidjan after conscripted soldiers Wednesday went out on the streets and temporarily seized control of the airport and the state television building.

The conscripts were back in their barracks, after Wednesday openly demonstrating their discontent for the second time this week in the Ivory Coast's economic capital.

The soldiers' movement was spectacular, leading residents to think that a coup d'etat was under way, especially after demonstrations by the conscripts today.

Groups of them commandeered taxis, looted shops and fired their guns in the air. But there was apparently little blood spilt.

According to the defence minister, Jean-Konan Banny, there were no casualties. But reliable sources said that at least one person sustained a bullet wound Wednesday.

Mr. Banny said that life had returned to normal in Abidjan, and stores were well-stocked despite the looting.

Speaking late Wednesday, the minister also said that talks had begun with the disgruntled conscripts and that measures to prevent a repetition of such events would be taken, without elaborating.

A decision to confine the army to barracks "depended on future events", he said, but observers thought the army's policing role, which it has carried out since October 1989 alongside the police and gendarmes, could be ended.

The head of France's special elite force, Lieutenant-Colonel Alain le Caro of the Security and Intervention Group of the National Gendarmerie (GSIGN), and several of his men, are meanwhile expected to arrive here Friday.

The force has been sent on what was officially called in Paris an "observation and advice mission" in response to a request from President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, 84.

France has a defence agreement with its former colony. It maintains about 500 troops near Abidjan and has about 100 advisors in the army and gendarmerie.

Order was quickly restored at the television station Wednesday, but the rebels abandoned the airport only late afternoon after troops set out to retake it in armoured cars.

The conscripts are afraid of finding themselves without paid employment after their service. They said they wanted to stay in the armed forces until the age of 55, and also wanted a rise in pay.

Their fears mirror those of students in Ivory Coast, who have been demanding a resumption of recruitment into the civil service, which is practically the only employer for graduates.

The latest troubles come amid a deep economic crisis, which has already led to strikes and demonstrations by students and workers in the West African state in recent months in protest against austerity measures.

They also come amid political effervescence. A multi-party system was conceded on April 30, since when some 10 parties have requested official recognition.

Some officials suspect career non-commissioned officers and even senior officers who were seen with the mutineers of having given them tactical advice.

They said the rebel conscripts seemed to play a kind of urban guerrilla "hide-and-seek" with the gendarmes trying to get them into barracks.

One Western observer said it was as if there had been a test-run for a coup d'etat. But he added that it was also as

if somebody had wanted to test the capacity of the gendarmes to counter a coup bid.

By Thursday morning, the presidential guard had set up machine guns and rocket launchers in front of the presidential offices in Abidjan, and had considerably extended the area out of bounds to traffic.

In Paris, official French sources said Mr. Houphouet-Boigny had requested "technical help for a kind of audit on the state of the army and the security forces, whose shortcomings have been self-evident".

Should it be concluded that material help such as the supply of teargas was needed, the French authorities might consider this, the sources said.

But there was no question of any direct French military intervention, save in the case of danger to French citizens in Ivory Coast, the sources stressed.

Government Bans Use of Official Cars After Work

*AB1405183790 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 12 May 90*

[Text] We start the newscast with a communique. In line with the execution of instructions from the president of the Republic concerning the use of the fleet of official cars belonging to the state, to national public establishments, communes, state companies, and companies in which the government has a majority of shares, it is reiterated that official cars must be used only and exclusively for official service needs. The use of official cars outside working days and hours or for personal purposes is prohibited. Only vehicles equipped with special driving cards are allowed to operate.

The users of official cars are informed that henceforth the Gendarmerie and police services will carry out strict checks on the use of official cars. With the exception of ambulances, any vehicle on the road without a special authorization on Saturday afternoons, Sundays, holidays, or after 2000 on working days will be stopped and impounded without prejudice to penalties and other measures that might be taken. All users of official cars are requested to comply and willingly submit to these checks without taking undue advantage of their high position or connections.

Liberia

Rebel Chief Taylor Says President Doe Must Go

*LD1605122190 Paris International Service
in French 0630 GMT 16 May 90*

[Excerpts] [Presenter] We begin with Liberia where the Scorpions, the rebels commanded by Charles Taylor, seem to be progressing at great speed toward the capital Monrovia. Moreover, they are now only an hour from that city. Our special correspondent in Liberia, Robert Minangoy, was able to note:

[Minangoy] Charles Taylor's men are no longer really rebels, but real soldiers trained in guerrilla tactics and heavily armed. On Monday [14 May] members of the Liberian National Patriotic Front took me near Buchanan, the mineral port on the Atlantic coast. [passage omitted] Charles Taylor received us at Tapeta, in the extreme south of Nimba county. [passage omitted]

[Presenter] I would add that according to diplomatic sources, Charles Taylor's guerrillas were reportedly spotted yesterday only 25 km from Monrovia. American pressure seems to be producing results. A representative of Samuel Doe's government is reported to have agreed in Washington yesterday to consider a meeting with a guerrilla representative. The rebel chief Charles Taylor seems, however, to be very reticent. Listen to him speaking to Robert Minangoy. The translation is provided by Philippe Lesmaries.

[Begin Taylor recording in English with superimposed French translation] You know we are not opposed to a resolution of this problem, but Doe has now entered into the cycle of the likes of Adolf Hitler, Idi Amin, and other dictators and I don't see how anyone could accept that this type of individual should continue to govern. We are in the process of talking. We are giving our proposals for a solution, but we demand that Doe depart without (?delay). There is no other solution. Doe has to go. [end recording]

[Presenter] Thus, a very hardline position by the rebel chief Charles Taylor.

Rebels Said 25 Km From Monrovia

*AB1605154090 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] [passage indistinct] have all recognized that the troops of opposition leader Charles Taylor are 25 km from Monrovia. Some rebels were even seen at the environs of the capital and at Roberts International Airport, about 55 km from Monrovia. According to diplomatic sources and journalists in the country, Buchanan and Yekepa have been taken already.

In Monrovia, the information minister has neither confirmed nor denied these rumors. In Washington, one of President Samuel Doe's associates announced that the representatives of the government would soon meet representatives of the opposition. This meeting would reportedly take place in the American capital under the auspices of the Department of State.

The U.S. Embassy in Abidjan has confirmed that there has been contact between the American Administration and the parties in conflict in Liberia.

Taylor News Conference Viewed

*AB1605181590 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 16 May 90*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Liberian rebel leader, Charles Taylor, has held a remarkable press conference in the town of Tapeta in Nimba County where the uprising began in December last year, getting together what journalists could make it there. It follows claims by the Liberian Government last week that Taylor had been shot and wounded in the stomach in a shootout in his headquarters. Well, one journalist, who made it to Charles Taylor's press conference, was our Ivory Coast reporter, Gerald Burke. On the line Robin White asked him how he got there.

[Begin recording] [Burke] Well, we went to the Ivorian town of Danane which is in the northwest of Ivory Coast. It is on the border with Liberia and a group of journalists walked across the border, not at the border post but walked through the bush for about a kilometer, came to a river which separates the two countries, walked across the river, and were then picked up at a border post inside Liberia by a group of rebels.

[White] And how did you get to Tapeta?

[Burke] Well, we drove down in a pickup and a minibus which the rebels had commandeered and drove down for about three hours to Tapeta, which is deep inside Nimba County, the third biggest town in Nimba County.

[White] And to you do the rebels control this entire area from the border down to Tapeta?

[Burke] Absolutely. We passed through several towns, which were for the most part deserted, except for a few rebel garrisons which controlled all the towns. It is very clear to me that the rebels control the road completely from the Ivorian border to Tapeta.

[White] Now last week the Liberian Government was putting out a story that Charles Taylor had been shot during a quarrel with his own men. Now how was Charles Taylor? Did he have any holes in him?

[Burke] He was fit and well, in fighting form, absolutely no holes in him at all. He gave a press conference last Sunday [13 May] evening and he opened his shirt to show us that there was absolutely no bullet wounds or any injuries to him whatsoever. So the rumor of his being shot in an internal rebel feud are completely without foundation, very obviously.

[White] In his interviews, Charles Taylor sounds a very flamboyant man. What does he look like?

[Burke] He is quite short and stout and bearded, wears sunglasses. Quite a Napoleon character really.

[White] Did the Ivory Coast Government know about your trip?

[Burke] Yes, I gather they were and the official line here was that journalists were strongly discouraged from crossing the border and going into Liberia.

[White] Did you see any signs at all of support from the Ivory Coast for the rebellion?

[Burke] That is very difficult to say. Local officials in Danane, which is the Ivorian town on the border, say, when they are pressed, that they do have a working relationship with rebels but they say that working relationship only extends to the evacuation of expatriates and people that the rebels capture.

[White] As you travelled through Nimba County, how would you assess the support for the rebellion?

[Burke] Well, it was very clear to me that the rebels have (?a lot) of sympathy in the area. But you must remember that Nimba County has been, to a large extent, evacuated since the fighting began at Christmas and that the vast majority of the people who still live in the county are in fact the rebels themselves. But the impression is those who remain are very fully and strongly behind the rebels.

[White] We have received a lot of letters from Nimba County complaining that the rebels have committed almost genocide against the Mandingo people from there.

[Burke] Well, Charles Taylor insists quite categorically that the rebels have not committed any atrocities against the local people in Nimba County and he was easily pointing a finger at the Liberian Army whom he said are committing atrocities on a grand scale. We travelled down with the rebels to a small village, about 30 km north of Buchanan, called Seata. It is a very small village of only about 65 inhabitants and there was evidence of gross atrocities committed. We saw 15-16 bodies, we saw huts riddled with bullet holes. So very clearly there had been some atrocities there.

[Burke] Committed by government troops, you are saying.

[White] So the rebels claim, yes. [end recording]

Rebels Launch Attacks on Gbarnga

AB1705114090 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Monrovia, May 17 (AFP)—Rebels fighting to unseat Liberian President Samuel Doe have launched attacks against government positions near Gbarnga, the capital of Bong County some 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of here, informed sources said Thursday.

Fighting was heard at the Episcopal Cuttington University College eight kilometers (five miles) from Gbarnga city late Tuesday, which prompted school officials to evacuate students from the campus temporarily on Wednesday. A memorandum from the dean for academic affairs, Musleng Cooper to parents late Wednesday said it was no longer safe to keep the students on campus. Three weeks ago students left the campus on their own for fear of rebel attacks on Gbarnga, but started returning just last week to resume classes.

Travelers from Gbarnga Thursday said they heard automatic gun fire near the city. Security personnel at the

main checkpoint before entering Gbarnga from Monrovia advised travellers to return to Monrovia because of reported fighting between government troops and the rebels who are led by fugitive former civil servant Charles Taylor.

The rebels launched their bid to topple Mr. Doe's regime last December in northeastern Nimba County. The fighting has since spread, and diplomatic sources in neighboring Ivory Coast on Tuesday said some of the 3,000 rebels had been seen within 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the capital.

Information Ministry officials called off a regular press briefing Wednesday with no explanation, and told journalists to come back on Friday. The Information and Defense Ministries are the only authorized agencies to supply journalists with news of rebel movements in the country, but they have given few details of fighting in recent days, and have not commented on the death of a colonel in an ambush Saturday.

Monrovia was calm Thursday, but people were worried about what would happen if rebels captured Gbarnga.

NDPL Task Force 'Ready To Join' Troops

AB1705124990 Paris AFP in English 1238 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Monrovia, May 17 (AFP)—Members of the ruling National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL) special task force said Thursday they were ready to join government troops fighting a growing insurgency in the country.

In a statement, the task force, a kind of militia, said it "stands by the president (Samuel Doe) at this crucial time when our legal and constituted government is threatened," and asked that its members be deployed in the army.

The statement, signed by task force chief Price Toe, said the rebels, who launched their bid to unseat Mr. Doe on December 24, have caused a "setback in the economy of the nation, which took good shape under President Doe." The armed dissidents, who are reported to be making gains in their struggle, are being led by a fugitive former civil servant, Charles Taylor.

The party statement said the task force had requested a meeting with Vice President Harry Moniba and the NDPL legislative caucus to work out strategies for "total victory" over the rebels.

The party's notorious task force of about 2,000 young people wreaked havoc for opposition parties in the campaign leading up to general elections in 1985, which confirmed former army sergeant Doe as president. He had seized power in a bloody coup d'etat in April 1980.

Members of the task force have been accused of vandalizing opposition party headquarters and homes of party leaders. They are also said to have beaten up opposition

members. Opposition parties have called on the government to ban the force. The NDPL has denied opposition charges that many task force members come from neighboring Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee of the opposition Unity Party (UP) said in a statement Thursday that its chairman Carlos Smith had been suspended with "immediate effect."

The committee said it decided to suspend Mr. Smith because of his "unilateral decision to form part of the so-called high-powered Liberian delegation on a political safari to the United States." Mr. Smith is member of a delegation presently in Washington to brief U.S. officials and Liberian opposition members in self-imposed exile about the rebel insurgency in the West African state.

The UP statement denounced "every claim by Mr. Smith as representative of the party on the trip." The executive committee was "terribly surprised and annoyed" to learn that Mr. Smith had chosen to join the delegation without the party's knowledge, it said.

The statement also accused President Doe's National Democratic Party of "virtually foiling every effort to bring peace to our country." It accused the ruling party of rigging the October 15, 1985 elections, in which Mr. Doe was elected to a six-year term.

Paper Asks Rebel Leader To Lay Down Arms

AB1405172990 *Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN*
2 Apr 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] What sort of a person would take up arms and commit genocide against his own nation?

What kind of a man would take up guns and commit atrocious acts against his brothers, his sisters, his friends and his own people?

What manner of a man would institute such barbaric and uncivilized acts against his people and still talk about liberation?

We have a multi-party democratic system under which any one can contest public office but, Mr. Charles Taylor decided to carry out his treacherous and perfious plans through the barrel of the gun.

By the way, who is this lunatic and what is he liberating the Liberian people from.

Besides robbing the state coffers of seveal thousands of dollars while serving as a one-time Director General of the General Services Agency, he is also a fugitive—wanted by both the Liberian and American Governments.

With the undue suffering that our people are now encountering as a result of Mr. Taylor's wicked plans, can one brand him a true patriot? The answer is a big No.

Such a man can only be termed a lunatic because his actions do not warrant that of a true liberator but only an opportunist.

Peace does not lie through the barrel of the gun. Therefore a developing country like ours can not afford any form of instability especially from a man who has lost his credibility at home.

It is in this vein that we call on Mr. Charles Taylor and his collaborators to put down their arms and wait for the 1991 elections to bring about changes through constitutional means in order to maintain existing peace and stability throughout the country.

If this is not done now, it is the people that would suffer the most. Mr. Taylor, a hint to the wise is quite sufficient.

Government, Opposition To Meet 'Shortly' in U.S.

AB1505122890 *Monrovia Radio ELWA in English*
2000 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The special presidential delegation to the United States is to meet shortly with a number of Liberian opposition members currently residing in that country, as well as those visiting the United States. Among opposition members residing in the States expected to meet the delegation are Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and Dr. Amos Sawyer, while Dr. Edward B.N. Kessely, standard bearer of the Unity Party, who is personally visiting the United States, will meet the delegation.

Information Minister J. Emmanuel Bowier said yesterday in a telephone report to acting Information Minister Moses Washington that the meeting would be held shortly, in keeping with several reports received by the delegation from the opposition members. Minister Bowier said, besides meeting with the opposition members, the [word indistinct] delegation would also hold series of meetings with several Liberian communities in the United States. Minister Bowier said Liberians residing in the U.S. have expressed their desire to meet the delegation because of its composition which includes opposition leaders, the church, and officials of the Liberian Government. According to Minister Bowier, the Liberians described the delegation as a beginning of positive step to bring peace to the nation of Liberia.

Nigeria

Babangida Determined To Be 'Last Military Regime'

AB1105103090 *Paris AFP in English* 2244 GMT
10 May 90

[Text] Lagos, May 10 (AFP)—General Ibrahim Babangida on Thursday expressed his government's determination that his would be the last military regime in Nigeria, an official statement said.

In 30 years as a sovereign nation, Nigeria has been ruled by the military for about 20 years, but Gen. Babangida has promised to hand over power to civilians on Oct 1.

1992. Government would during the transition period continue to enunciate policies and measures to give birth to solid democracy. Gen. Babangida told the new 13-member board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which paid him a courtesy visit.

The board, headed by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Jibril Aminu, was officially inaugurated here Wednesday.

The regime would continue to assure the orderly and prosperous development of Nigeria's oil industry, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of its foreign earnings, he said.

ANC's Mandela Visits Kaduna Oil Refinery

*AB1705072490 Lagos Domestic Service in English
2100 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] The visiting South African nationalist leader, Dr. Nelson Mandela, has described Nigeria as a symbol of sound economic development. He made the remark today when he visited the Kaduna oil refinery. Dr. Mandela, who expressed delight at Nigeria's success in oil industry, called on other African and developing nations to emulate Nigeria's industrial strategy. He then commended the Federal Government's determination to assist the struggling black people in South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

The minister of petroleum resources, Prof. Djibril Aminu, who accompanied Dr. Mandela to the oil refinery said that the result of oil exploration in the country has shown that the nation has twice as much gas as oil. Nigeria's gas reserve, he said, has been estimated at over 100 million cubic feet. The minister also stated that the Federal Government was determined to make effective use of the wide variety of natural gas available in the country.

Arrest of Braithwaite Confirmed; Appeal for Calm

*AB1205184890 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 12 May 90*

[From the "African News"]

[Excerpts] Reports from Nigeria say the military authorities there have released more than 120 officers and other ranks who were among those arrested after last month's attempted coup. [passage omitted]

The authorities have confirmed that a well-known lawyer and politician, Mr. Tunji Braithwaite, who was arrested three days after the coup attempt, is being held under the State Security Decree. The decree allows the detention without charge for a limited period, of those suspected of offences threatening the state. Mr. Braithwaite was arrested after urging the government not to execute those responsible for the coup attempt.

Meanwhile, in the northern city of Kaduna, the authorities have appealed for calm, following two days of demonstrations by Christian clergymen and their followers. The protests followed the arrest there of two representatives of the Christian Association of Nigeria, which in the past, has complained of Muslim domination.

TIDE Warns of U.S. Waste Disposal Plans

*AB1205180290 Lagos International Service
in English 1030 GMT 11 May 90*

[From the press review]

[Text] The TIDE raises alarm at a report which says Nigeria and Namibia are among 12 African countries earmarked as potential toxic waste dumping grounds by an American waste disposal program. It is in the light of this that the paper applauds the decision of Nigeria's Federal Environmental Protection Agency to implement every clause of Decree 58 of 1988 in line with government's policy of detoxifying the environment. The TIDE also supports the current (?visit) to some industries known to be producing waste of high toxicity in the country.

*** NNPC Loses Revenue Over Plant Closure**

*34000620 Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English
16 Apr 90 pp 1, 4*

[Text] The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) lost a revenue of about N425.11 million [naira] because of the continued closure of the petrochemical plant in Ekpan, near Warri Bendel State.

A BUSINESS TIMES investigation showed that the plant commissioned in March 1988, was designed to produce 35,000 metric tonnes of polypropylene resin yearly, a major raw material for the production of plastics. However, the plant could only produce 3,252 metric tonnes before it was shut last June.

At an average selling price of N7,500 per ton fixed by the NNPC for the product, this implies a loss of about N238.11 million in revenue, while the continued closure of the plant till date, costs the corporation N197 million in revenue.

Official reasons given for the plant closure include, shortage of chemicals, inadequate power supply and irregular supply of feedstock from the Warri refinery.

At the refinery, two steam boilers generating 30 mega watts (MW) out of the 65 MW installed capacity from four boilers, had broken down. The resultant inadequacy of electricity, officials said, hampered smooth operations at the plant.

The petrochemical plant finally ceased operating when fire destroyed the Crude Distillation Unit of the refinery last year. The unit supplied feedstock to the petrochemical plant.

The fire incident also forced the refinery capacity utilisation down to 58 per monetary authorities' anger, the CBN is maintaining that it was only when a bank was folding up that any of its branches could be closed.

The implication of the directive which has no precedent since bankers can not remember any occasion in the past when a bank had to close maintenance work.

It was hoped that, by the end of the rehabilitation of the refinery, which also involves the tying in of a fourth steam boiler to increase power generating capacity to 110 MW, the capacity utilisation of the refinery would rise and the petrochemical plant would resume operations.

However, in an interview with the *BUSINESS TIMES*, the chairman of the Association of Plastic Manufacturers in Nigeria (APMIN), Chief S.A. Oluwo, said the revenue loss on the sale of products from the petrochemical plant, was a meagre one, hence they could afford to neglect the plant.

Said he: "The N435.11 million is a drop in the ocean when compared with the billions of naira they make from crude oil sales. They could therefore afford to look the other way from the problem of the petrochemical plant."

The closure of the plant, Chief Oluwo disclosed, had placed importers of polypropylene resin, who now dictate prices of the product arbitrarily.

Sierra Leone

BBC Reports Liberia's Doe Cancels Visit

AB1405190490 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 14 May 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] As the troubles mount for Liberia's President Samuel Doe, he has been traveling around West Africa, apparently looking for support, although officially the Liberians are keeping quiet about it. He has been to Nigeria and to Togo, and last week, he was due to go to

Gambia. But that trip to Banjul was called off at the last minute. This morning, another trip was called off, this time to Sierra Leone. From Freetown, Fodee Fofana telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] At 6:30 AM this morning, Sierra Leone's acting vice president, the commander of the Armed Forces, the inspector general of police, and a number of cabinet ministers, along with the Liberian ambassador, had boarded the ferry at Freetown and were heading for Lungi International Airport. But at that moment, a police wireless message was received from Monrovia announcing that President Doe's trip was canceled. The Liberian ambassador refused to comment on the reasons for the last-minute cancellation. It is understood that the Liberian leader had requested to come to Sierra Leone three days from now [as heard], on Thursday. But this date was called off because President Momoh had a prior engagement. And so today, Monday, was rescheduled for the meeting and agreed by both countries. The two heads of state were supposed to hold a four-hour-long closed-door discussion at Lungi Airport concerning the fighting in Liberia.

According to diplomatic sources in Freetown, President Doe, who has been seeking assistance throughout the West African region recently, was due to ask the Sierra Leone Government for help. However, despite a defense agreement involving Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea under the Mano River Union that joins the three countries, diplomatic sources said that President Momoh would in any case have turned down President Doe's request, since it is widely believed in Sierra Leonean Government circles that the conflict in Liberia is a purely internal matter.

An angry activist from the ruling party in Sierra Leone, the APC [All-People's Congress], said the cancellation by Liberia was an insult to us. Look how we have mobilized the youth wing and the women's wing, the activist said, to give the Liberian leader a rousing and colorful welcome at the airport. The activist added that all of the food and drinks ordered for the occasion will still have to be paid for despite the cancellation. [end recording]

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